

OFFICIATING MINISTERS

DR. CLARENCE COOPER
DR. HUGH RAY BRIDGES

INTERMENT

MCCLAIN-HAYS CHAPEL
SERVICES
MAY 22, 2011
4:00 P. M.
CEDARLAWN CEMETERY

Psalms 23

MA F-119

The Lord is my shepherd: I shall not want

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:
He leadeth me beside the still waters

He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for
his name's sake.

Yea though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will
fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort
me.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies:
thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and
I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.



MCCLAIN-HAYS FUNERAL SERVICE INC.
1002 EAST MAIN STREET
PHILADELPHIA, MS 39350
601-656-1212

www.mcclainhays.com
Charles A. McClain Jr. Barney Nowell
HOME OWNED & OPERATED SINCE 1937

ECCC

A. J. Kilpatrick was a native of Neshoba County and a graduate of Philadelphia High School where he played football, basketball and track. He attended Ole Miss as a freshman where he played football and basketball. He then attended East Central Community College before graduating from the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg. Coach Kilpatrick received a master's degree from Mississippi College. Coach Kilpatrick spent 20 years coaching at high schools and 18 years coaching at junior colleges with a career won-lost record (as a head coach) 238-138-12 coaching at J. Z. George High School - North Carrollton, Noxubee County High School, Jackson Wingfield High School, East Mississippi Community College, Louisville High School, Northwest Community College, Hickory High School, Holmes Community College and East Central Community College. He was a member of Emmanuel Baptist Church in Grenada. Survivors include his wife, Versie Cumberland Kilpatrick of Grenada; daughter, Sandra Jones and husband, Tommy of Grenada; son, Andy Kilpatrick and wife, Debbie of Clinton; daughter-in-law, Patsy Kilpatrick of Batesville; grand-daughters, Stephanie Kilpatrick of Batesville and Katie Lee Jones of Grenada; grandsons, Casey Jones of Grenada and J. J. Kilpatrick of Batesville; sister, Dorothy Harris and husband, Joe of Philadelphia; brothers, Aubrey Earl Kilpatrick and wife, Naomi of Philadelphia; Maurice Kilpatrick and wife, Virginia of Vicksburg, Billy Kilpatrick and wife, Nona of Philadelphia, Jimmy Kilpatrick and wife, Margaret of Cochran, GA. He was preceded in death by his son, James Lewis Kilpatrick; sisters, Mary Frances Morris, Bobbie Ann Dennis and brother, Lauren Kilpatrick.



IN LOVING MEMORY

OF

COACH A. J. KILPATRICK

DECEMBER 14, 1931—MAY 20, 2011

JOHN 14

LET NOT YOUR HEART BE TROUBLED: YE
BELIEVE IN GOD, BELIEVE ALSO IN ME.
IN MY FATHER'S HOUSE ARE MANY
MANSIONS: IF IT WERE NOT SO, I WOULD
HAVE TOLD YOU. I GO TO PREPARE A PLACE
FOR YOU. AND IF I GO AND PREPARE
A PLACE FOR YOU, I WILL COME AGAIN
AND RECEIVE YOU UNTO MYSELF; THAT
WHERE I AM, THERE YE MAY BE ALSO.

Arrangements entrusted to the care of
Ott & Lee Funeral Home
Forest, MS

**In Loving Memory
of
ERMA LEE BARBER**

**Entered this Life
November 21, 1905**

**Entered into Rest
February 18, 2004**

**Funeral Services
February 21, 2004**

**Officiating
REV. H. G. WINSTEAD**

**Final Resting Place
BARBER FAMILY CEMETERY
BURNS, MS**

Wayne Comans, Ovid Vickers,
Elvin Flowers, L.B. Bullock,
Henry B. "Bubba" Hudspeth,
Ben Harper, Mickey Vance,
James Veltton, Doug Woodward,
Scott Woodward and Jimmy Smith

Pallbearers

Minister:
Rev. Mark Vincent

Interment
Decatur City Cemetery

Services
11 a.m., Wednesday, April 16, 2014
Clarke Venable Baptist Church



Dr. Smith was preceded in death by
two brothers, Wayne Smith and
Vernon Smith.

1 Sister:
Claire Woodward of Louisville

2 Daughters:
Kelli Smith of Magee, MS
Wendy Smith of Union, MS

Wife of 38 years:
Charlotte Smith of Decatur

Survivors of Dr. Eddie M. Smith

Dr. Eddie M. Smith *MRVF-119*

Dr. Smith was president of East Central Community
college where he led the institution from 1985
to 2000 and served his alma mater as its
sixth president.

During Dr. Smith's tenure, the college
experienced unprecedented growth in numerous
areas, especially in enrollment, program offerings,
campus facilities and workforce education. An
increased emphasis was placed on recruiting
students of all ages. As a result of a closely followed
recruitment and retention plan, enrollment
increased each of his 15 years at the helm.

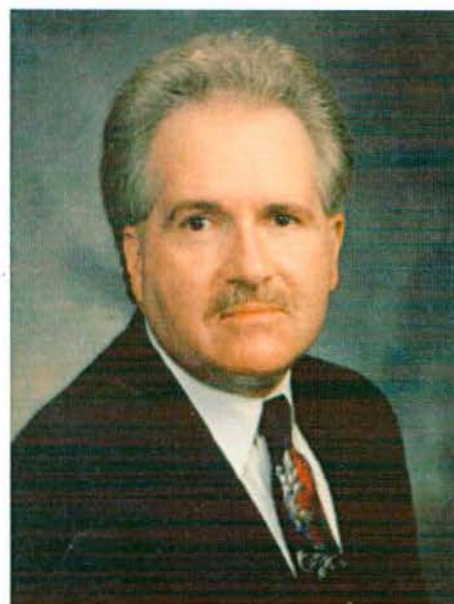
Upon his retirement in 2000, the college's Board of
Trustees named the newly constructed Student
Union in his honor, in recognition of his dedication
to serving students of all ages.



Memorials may be made to:
Clarke Venable Baptist Church Building Fund
P.O. Box 308 Decatur, MS 39327



Compliments of Milling Funeral Home



In Loving Memory
of
Dr. Eddie M. Smith
Age: 71

Entered this Life: February 14, 1943
Departed this Life: April 14, 2014

Departed this Life: May 26, 2007

Entered this Life: July 19, 1939

Age: 67

Mr. Willie Lee Lathem

of

In Loving Memory



Survivors of Mr. Willie Lee Lathem

Wife:

Sarah Lathem

2 Daughters:

Teresa Shepherd & husband George

Rachel Rainer & husband Travis

2 Step Sons:

Danny Estes & wife Judy

David Estes

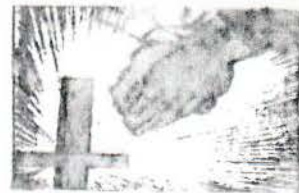
9 Grandchildren

A very special cousin Cleo McKinnion & wife Martha of Brandon

Preceded in death by his parents, G.W. & Junnie Lathem

He was a member of Decatur United Methodist Church. He was retired from the Air National Guard and was presently Chief of Security at ECCC.

Compliments of Milling Funeral Home
"A Heritage Built on Community Trust"



Remember me in quiet days, while
raindrops whisper on your pane,
But in your memories have no grief,
let the joy we knew remain.
Remember me when evening stars,
look down on you with steadfast eyes.
Remember me if once you wake, to catch a
glimpse of red sunrise.
And when your thoughts do turn to me,
know that I would not have you cry.
But live for me, and laugh for me,
when you are happy so am I.
Remember an old joke we shared,
remember me when Spring walks by.
Think once of me when you are glad,
and while you live I shall not DIE!

Remember Me

MRLUF-117

Visitation

5-8 pm, Tuesday, May 29, 2007

Milling Funeral Home in Union



Funeral Services

10 am, Wednesday, May 30, 2007

Decatur United Methodist Church

Interment

Decatur Cemetery

Minister:

Rev. Johnny Crosby

Pallbearers Include:

George Agnew, Willie Earl Wilcher, Brent Gregory, Scott Hill, Raymond McKinion, & Benji Walton, Sr.

Survivors of Mr. Fred "Clinton" Russell

Wife of 55 years:

Barbara Jo Davidson Russell

Daughter:

Lynn Hayes and husband George

Son:

Randy Russell and wife Sherri

Son-in-law: Frank Shock

Grandchildren:

Hunter and Joy Hayes, Betsy and Barron Jagerman

Forrest Shock,

Victoria, Caroline and Christopher Russell

Sister: Grace Davis

Sister-in-law: Nancy Russell

Brother-in-law: Donald Davidson and his wife Carolyn

Sister-in-law: Hilda Joy McBeath and her husband Adrian

Numerous nieces and nephews

Mr. Russell was preceded in death by his daughter, Barbara Russell Shock, his parents, Elmer and Clara Russell, his brothers, Mason Russell and his wife Cavern, Oris Russell, his twin brother Clois Russell, and brother-in-law, Hubert Davis.

Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd: I shall not want.

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:

he leadeth me beside the still waters.

He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me: thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil: my cup runneth over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.



In Loving Memory of

Mr. Fred "Clinton" Russell

Age: 75

Entered Life: October 10, 1933

Departed Life: April 20, 2009

The family requests that memorials be made to the
Newton County Gideons
PO Box 297, Newton, MS. 39345
and

Clarke-Venable Baptist Church Building Fund
PO Box 308, Decatur, MS. 39327



The Gideons International

Compliments of Milling Funeral Home

VF-119 EFCCO

NR

Services:
10:30 am, Wednesday, April 22, 2009
Clarke-Venable Baptist Church
Interment: Decatur City Cemetery
Ministers:
Rev. Stan Buckley and Rev. Mark Vincent
Pallbearers:
Chris Clark, Chris Harris, Graham Clark, Joe Addy, Larry Blackburn, Richard Stamper, Joe Barrett, and Billy Pierce
Honorary Pallbearers:
Gideons and Deacons of Clarke-Venable Baptist Church
Mr. Russell worked as physical plant director at East Central Community College. He was an active member of Gideons International, Newton County Chapter. He served as a deacon and trustee of Clarke-Venable Baptist Church. Mr. Russell was elected Citizen of the Year by the Decatur Chamber of Commerce. He received the Golden Deed Award by the Exchange Club and was honored by East Central Community College by having the Maintenance Facility Complex named in his honor. His passion was spreading God's word through the ministry of the Gideons and through the ministries of his local church. He never tired of seeing the joy in the face of a person receiving a Gideon Bible for the first time.



In Memory

*God hath not promised
skies always blue,
Flower-strewn pathways
all our lives through;
God hath not promised
sun without rain,
Joy without sorrow,
peace without pain.*

*But God hath promised
strength for the day,
Rest for the labor,
light for the way,
Grace for the trials,
help from above,
Unfailing sympathy --
undying love.*

In Memory Of
DR. CHARLES V. WRIGHT
Age 78

Date of Birth
November 11, 1922

Date of Death
October 28, 2001

Funeral Services From
BALDWIN-LEE FUNERAL HOME
Wednesday, October 31, 2001
11:00 A.M.

Officiating
REV. FARLEY EARNEST
DR. HORACE HOLMES
DR. BILLY THAMES

Organist
DOROTHY HARRISON

Interment
ELLISVILLE CITY CEMETERY

One Mother

You can only have one mother
 Patient kind and true;
 No other friend in all the world,
 Will be the same to you.
 When other friends forsake you,
 To mother you will return,
 For all her loving kindness,
 She asks nothing in return.
 As we look upon her picture,
 Sweet memories we recall,
 Of a face so full of sunshine,
 And a smile for one and all.
 Sweet Jesus, take this message,
 To our dear mother up above;
 Tell her how we miss her,
 And give her all our love.



Newton County Funeral Home

"A life well lived deserves a service well planned"

601-635-3200

www.newtoncountyfuneralhome.com

Celebrating the Life of Sarah Warner Craft Griffin



September 11, 1932-May 7, 2015

As one whom his mothers comforts,
 So I will comfort you.

Isaiah 66:13

"Mothers hold their children's hands for a short while, but their hearts forever."

Gone But Not Forgotten

*We sat beside your bedside,
Our hearts were crushed
and sore;
We did our best to the end,
'Til we could do no more.
In tears we watched
you sinking,
We watched you fade away;
And though our hearts
were breaking,
We knew you could not stay.
You left behind some
aching hearts,
That loved you most sincere;
We never shall and never will
Forget you Mother dear.*

A Service of Remembrance for:

Mrs. Sarah C. Griffin

Order of Service

Instrumental Music- Gloria Harms

Gathering

The Word of Grace

Greeting

Prayer

Psalm 23

Old Testament Lesson- Isaiah 55:1-3, 6-13

Special Music: Hymn Medley- Sarah Jones
Shelley Thoms

New Testament Lesson- Romans 8 (selected verses)
Revelation 21:1-7

Gospel Lesson- John 14 (selected verses)

Sermon

Personal Remarks

Special Reading

Special Music: "Lead Me Home"- Josh Burton

Benediction

Alford Deaton, a long-time member of Clarke Venable Baptist Church in Decatur, taught physics at East Central Community College for 34 years. During that time, he served as the treasurer for the Mississippi Association of Physics Teachers for 11 years. After retirement, he enjoyed playing mandolin in the Tri-County Dulcimer Club in their traveling ministry to local nursing homes.



*In Loving Memory
of*

*Mr. Alford Deaton
Age: 76*

Entered this Life: October 03, 1939

Departed this Life: April 08, 2016

Survivors

*A loving wife of 56 years:
Barbara Deaton of Decatur*

Two Sons:

*Phil Deaton of Greenwood
Steve Deaton and wife Suzanne of Madison*

Four Grandchildren:

*Emily Deaton of Madison, Alex Deaton of Flowood,
Zachary Deaton and wife Nicole of Brandon,
and Ana Deaton of Madison*

Great Grandchildren:

*Hanna Sly, Avie Deaton,
Chloe Tos, and Zachary Deaton Jr.*

One Brother:

David Deaton of Seabrook, Tx

*Mr. Deaton was preceded in death by one sister:
Virginia Clark, and one brother: Horace Deaton.*



Services:

*11 am, Monday, April 11, 2016
Clarke-Venable Baptist Church*

Burial:

Decatur City Cemetery

Minister:

Rev. Mark Vincent

Pallbearers:

Fellowship SS Class:

*Bud Smith
Lynn Ezelle
Bill Bounds
Kenneth Jones
Joe Clark
Buck McDonald
Billy Thomas
Richard Wilson
Robert Trapp*

Frank Thomas Rives, 90, passed away August 3, 2014 at Mississippi State Veterans Home in Kosciusko, MS. He was born March 4, 1924 in Tuscola, MS in Leake County, as the eldest of four children to Frank N. and Olivia Thomas Rives.

He graduated from Lena High School in 1939 and from Clarke College in Newton in 1942. While a student at Clarke College he met Jean Mason, who later became his wife in 1946. In May of 1942, in WWII con lict, he entered the Army Air Force. Mr. Rives served four years in WWII and was supply sergeant in the South Pacific Theater and served in the occupation forces in Japan until April 1946. He then entered Mississippi College and graduated with a B.S. in mathematics in 1948. Frank and his wife, Jean both taught school in several places before he returned to college to get his M.S. degree from Ole Miss in 1952. His son, Dr. F. David Rives, was born to the couple in 1950 while living in Union, where Frank coached and taught at Union High School. In 1952, the family moved to Southwest Junior College in Summit, MS and he taught for a year before going to East Central Community College in July 1953. He began teaching mathematics and physics in 1953 and rose to become Dean of Admissions and Records at East Central Community College. He was active in the life of East Central Community College and continued to teach adult night classes well past his retirement as Dean of Admissions and Records. He has resided in Decatur since 1953.

Dean Rives was an active Christian and member of Clarke-Venable Baptist Church in Decatur. He taught the Pals Sunday School Class for over four decades, served as Chairman of the Deacons and Chairman of the Building Committee for the present sanctuary of Clarke-Venable and was church treasurer.

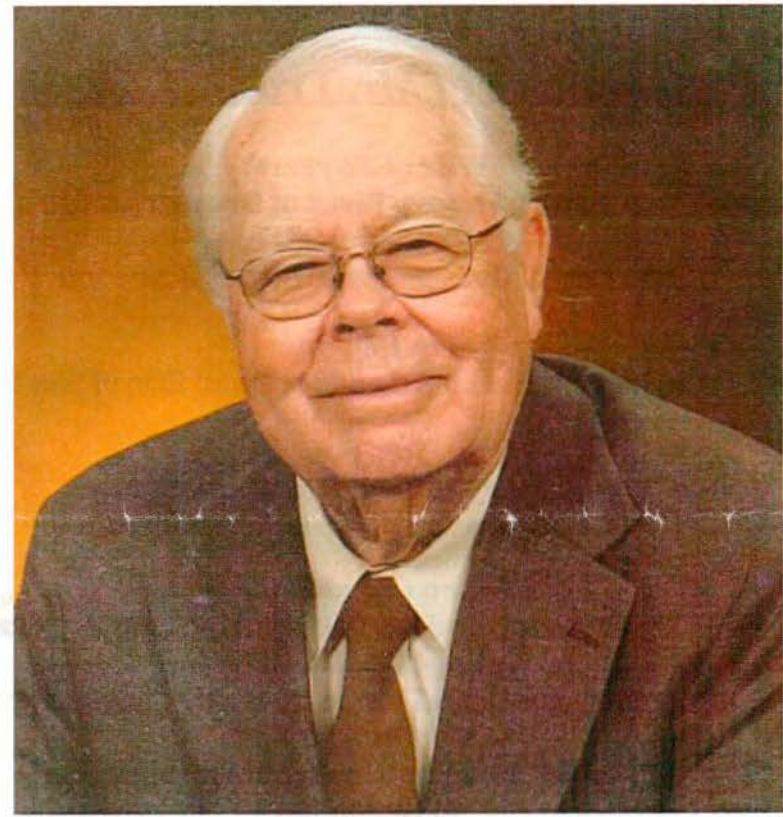
He lost his wife, Jean, to cancer in February of 1980, and found the second love of his life in his present wife, Mary Lowery Rives, formerly of Forest. He and Mary have had 32 wonderful years together.



In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to:
 Clarke-Venable Baptist Church,
 P.O. Box 308, Decatur, MS 39327, or
 the Baptist Children's Village,
 P.O. Box 27 in Clinton, MS 39060-0027.



Compliments of Milling Funeral Home



In Loving Memory of

Mr. Frank T. Rives

Age: 90

Entered this Life: March 04, 1924

Departed this Life: August 03, 2014

Survivors of Mr. Frank T. Rives

Wife of 32 years:
Mary Lowery Rives of Decatur

Son:
Dr. David Rives and wife Diane of Newton

Step Daughter:
Dr. Mary Sue Lowery Bernhard and husband Eric of San Diego, CA

Step Son:
Paul Lowery and wife Heather of Union

Seven Grandchildren:
Katie Rives Paczak and her husband Dr. Greg T. Paczak
of Madison
Emily Rives Carty and husband Major Chuck Carty
of Merritt Island, FL
William B. Rives and his wife Whitley Rives
of Hernando
Chance Lowery and Brant Lowery,
of Union
Lauren Bernhard and Miranda Bernhard
of San Diego, CA.

Six Great Grandchildren:
William Carty, Jason Carty,
John Martin, Paczak, Becca Carty,
Millie Ann Paczak, and Thane Rives.

He was also preceded in death by his parents, Frank N. and Olivia
Thomas Rives.
and three siblings, W.B. "Boots" Rives,
Ralph E. Rives, Sr.; and Lexie Carol Rhinewalt Allen.

Services:

11 am, Wednesday, August 06, 2014
Clarke-Venable Baptist Church

Burial:
Bethel Cemetery

Ministers:
Rev. Mark Vincent
Rev. David Rives

Pallbearers:
Chance Lowery, Brant Lowery, Will Rives,
Steve Rives, Phil Rhinewalt and Eddie Rives

Honorary Pallbearers:
Brad and Mary Tucker, Joe and Carolyn Clark,
Lou Clark and Linda Pierce

Order of Service

Prelude: Charlotte Smith

Song: Billy Williams

Eulogy: (Son) Dr. David Rives

Song: Billy Williams

Message: Rev. Mark Vincent

Postlude: Charlotte Smith

A close-up, vertical shot of the American flag waving. The red and white stripes are prominent, flowing diagonally across the frame. The blue field with white stars is visible in the upper right corner. The lighting creates a sense of movement and texture in the fabric.

IN REMEMBRANCE

GOD HATH NOT PROMISED
SKIES ALWAYS BLUE,
FLOWER-STREWN PATHWAYS
ALL OUR LIVES THROUGH;
GOD HATH NOT PROMISED
SUN WITHOUT RAIN,
JOY WITHOUT SORROW,
PEACE WITHOUT PAIN.
BUT GOD HATH PROMISED
STRENGTH FOR THE DAY,
REST FOR THE LABOR,
LIGHT FOR THE WAY,
GRACE FOR THE TRIALS,
HELP FROM ABOVE,
UNFAILING SYMPATHY--
UNDYING LOVE.

ROGER C. BURKES

March 13, 1938

January 13, 2008

MEMORIAL SERVICE

NEWTON COUNTY MEMORIAL GARDENS
9998 HIGHWAY 15 NEWTON MS

Thursday, January 17, 2008
03:30 PM

CLERGY

Reverend Riley Burton

PALLBEARERS

FINAL RESTING PLACE

NEWTON COUNTY MEMORIAL GARDENS
NEWTON MS

MRVF-119
ECCC
Pall bearers

Chance Barfoot
Eric Beckham
Josh Jarriel
Nathan Calvert
Riley Burrage
Mitch Henderson

Honorary Pallbearers
Ben McDaniel
Cody Anderson

Card of Thanks

The family of Aleisha RheAnn Routh would like to offer their sincere gratitude and appreciation for all that has been done for us during this most difficult time. The floral tributes, donations, and meals provided gave us some comfort during our loss. We are especially thankful to Choctaw Social Services, Choctaw Tribal Council Members, the Choctaw Police Department, Tribal Maintenance, and Stephens Funeral Home for their services. Thank you all for your support, comfort, and understanding.

In Loving Memory

Funeral Service
February 15, 2010
2:00 p.m.
St. Theresa Catholic
Church



Aleisha

Aleisha RheAnn Routh

November 12, 1990 -
February 10, 2010

Obituary

Aleisha RheAnn Routh was born to Edward and Tina Routh on November 12, 1990 in Jackson, MS. Aleisha went to rest in the Lords hand on the evening of February 10, 2010.

During her all too short time on this earth Aleisha proved herself to be a wonderful child, terrific sister, a great student, and a friend to many.

Aleisha was a recent honors graduate of Neshoba Central High School. She was currently attending East Central Community College where she was studying pre-med. Aleisha hoped one day to attend Mississippi State University to continue her goal to become a practicing physician.

Aleisha was preceded in death by her grandmothers, Nellie Hickman Steve and Roberta Tubby Parks; aunts Robin Parks and Stephanie Parks.

Aleisha is survived by her father, Edward Routh, mother Tina Routh, sisters Kaylee Routh and Candice Parks, uncles Robert Routh, Samuel Victory and Jaime Parks, aunts Christina Routh, Tonya Ben, Melissa Parks, and Sherry Tullis. Aleisha is also survived by many cousins and a multitude of friends.

Funeral Mass

Processional - Jennifer Henry

Welcome and Opening Prayers - Father David Hamm

1st Reading Responsorial Psalm - Jo Billie

2nd Reading - Joyce Reynolds

Gospel

Homily

Offertory Hymn

Communion

Obituary Reading - Rae Nell Vaughn

Prayers of Farewell

Recessional - Jennifer Henry

Interment - Holy Rosary Cemetery





Aleisha

Gone But Not Forgotten

*You were so full of life, Always smiling and carefree,
Life loved you being a part of it, And I loved you being a part of me.
You could make anyone laugh, If they were having a bad day,
No matter how sad I was, You could take the hurt away.*

Nothing could ever stop you, or even make you fall.

You were ready to take on the world,

Ready to do it all.

*But God decided he needed you, So from this world you left,
But you took a piece of all of us, Our hearts are what you kept.*

*Your seat is now empty, And it's hard not to see your face,
But please always know this, No one will ever take your place.*

You left without a warning,

Not even saying good-bye.

*And We can't seem to stop asking the question, why?
Nothing will ever be the same, The halls are empty without your
laughter,*

But I know you're in Heaven, Watching over us and looking after.

We didn't see this coming, It hit us by surprise.

And when you left this world, A small part of us died.

Your smile could brighten anyone's day,

No matter what they were going through,

And I know every day for the rest of our lives,

We'll be missing you.

GILBERTH "SEBASH" BELL

*You have brought light into some of our darkest times.
I'm sure that's why God put you on this earth for.
And then He took your hands and guided you back to
Heaven when your tasks were complete.*

*Leaving wonderful memories, no signs of good-bye,
for we shall meet again. You have taught so many not to
give up and fulfill their dreams and never keep our head
down and to you we say "Thank-you."*

*Monday we sat crying, thinking if we had known,
wishing we could turn back time, knowing we cannot
control.*

*Today, as we stand by your grave to grieve, some of us
will know you would say everything is okay.*

Some of us will think this can't be.

Some of us will wonder, "What if we had did this?"

*Tomorrow, we might accidentally say, "Where's my
son?", "Where's Boy?", "Where's Sebash?", "Where's
Goldberg?"...*

*But what hurts the most is, one day she will say,
"Where's my Daddy?"*

*As for the Unified Stickball team, "Sebash" would say
to you all, "I am here with you so do it for me!"*

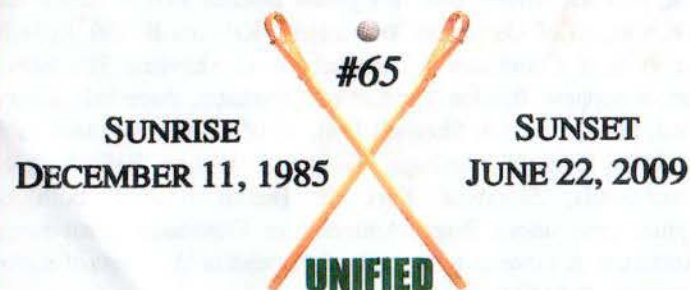


In Loving Memory

of a Father, Son, Uncle, & a Friend



GILBERTH SASBASTIAN SHEA BELL



OBITUARY FOR GILBERTH SASBASTIAN SHEA BELL "SEBASH"

Gilberth Sasbastian Shea Bell was born to Gilbert Ray Bell & Cynthia Doreen Bell on December 11, 1985. "Sebash" resided in the Conehatta Community all his life until his untimely departure on Monday, June 22, 2009.

He was coming home from work when he had an automobile accident & was pronounced dead at the scene at approximately 4:45 p.m.

"Sebash" graduated from Choctaw Central High School in 2005. He furthered his education at East Central Community College in Decatur & earned certificates in Machine Shop Technology in 2007, Auto Mechanic Technology in 2008 & Carpentry this past May 2009.

On April 24, 2009, at approximately 12:16 p.m., "Sebash" was blessed with his first child, a beautiful baby girl - Jabezlin Lamae Bell - whom he loved so dearly with all his heart.

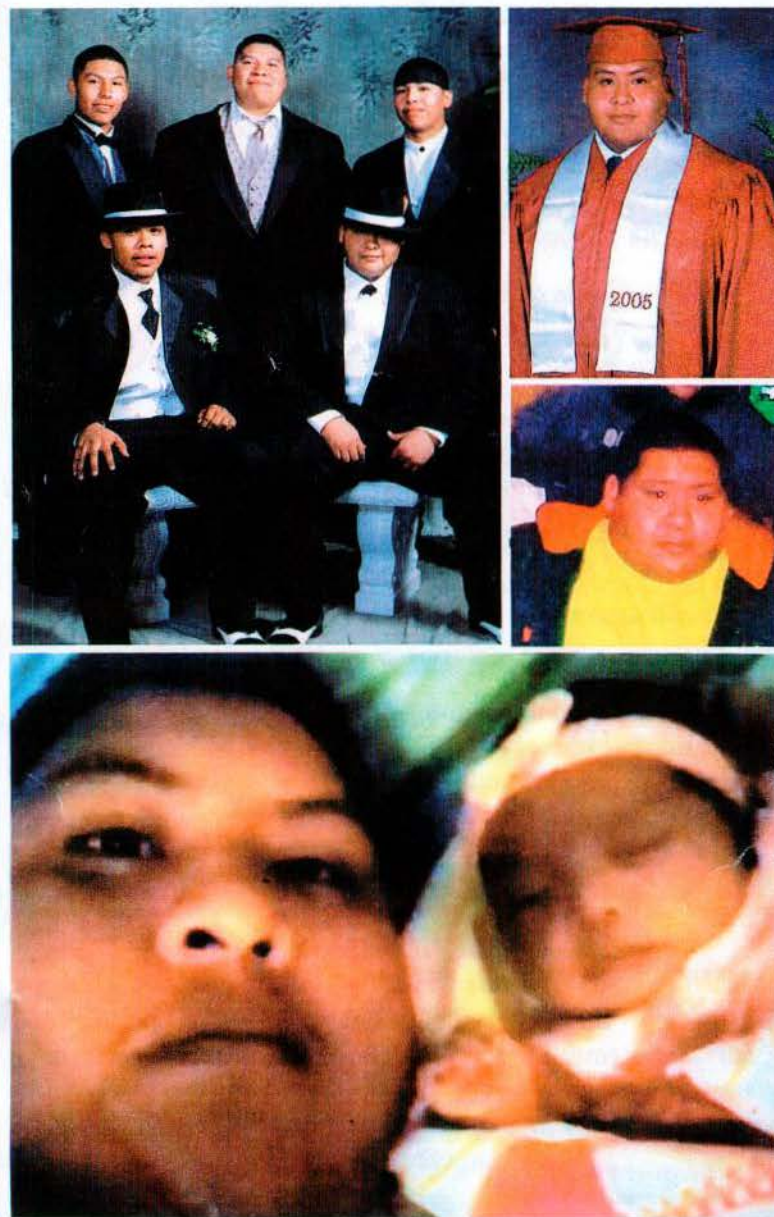
"Sebash" loved spending most of his time holding his baby, Jabezlin, & playing with his dearest niece, Shaylene, & spending time with his companion, Lequita, & the kids. The rest of the time he devoted to playing stickball & occasionally basketball. On October 4, 2008, he traveled to Miami, Fla., with his friends to watch his favorite college football team - the Miami Hurricanes. He was planning to go again this fall. Last but not least, he enjoyed hanging out with his buddies.

"Sebash" was preceded in death by his sister, Cyntina Raylynn Bell; a nephew, Antoine Tyrese Bell; a brother, Gilbert Casey Bell; maternal great-grandparents, Phillip Anderson & Zula Anderson; maternal grandmother, Vina Anderson Jefferson; uncles, Calvert Jefferson & Elroy Jefferson; a great-aunt, Mattie Lynn Ben; & a paternal grandmother, Susie Ann Bell Sockey.

He leaves in God's care a daughter, Jabezlin Bell; a companion, Lequita King; two stepsons, Donte' Jimmie & Ryland King, all of Conehatta; parents, Gilbert Bell & Cynthia Doreen Bell & stepfather, Kevin Thomas, all of Conehatta; two sisters, Kristina Bell & Relinda Shumake, both of Conehatta; his dearest niece, Shaylene Thomas of Conehatta; a nephew, Bradon Thomas of Conehatta; three half-sisters, Casey Bell, Shenita Bell & Sheanell Bell, all of Conehatta; three half-brothers, Jason Sam of Carthage, Tolbert & Gilbert Bell, both of Conehatta; friends, Shyatesa York & Taelan Martin, both of Philadelphia; great-uncle, Roger Anderson of Conehatta; great-aunts, Sarina Anderson & Edvena John, both of Conehatta; & a host of aunts, uncles, cousins, & friends.

"Sebash" - you'll be greatly missed.

Memories of "Sebash"



IN LOVING MEMORY
GILBERTH SASBASTIAN SHEA BELL

"Sebash"

December 11, 1985 - June 22, 2009

"IT'S HARD TO LET YOU GO"

*The day you died was the day my world stopped.
 But that's the day you were given your wings.
 It's just so hard to believe that you are not going to be with us
 anymore, so it's hard to let you go.*

*We wanted you to be with us, but God wanted you more.
 I just don't know why he had to take you home so soon.
 Your time with us was short, so it's hard to let you go.*

*I know I have to move on with my life, but it's so hard.
 I just can't imagine life being without you.
 You brought so much joy and happiness
 To many peoples' lives, so it's hard to let you go.*

*My life is worse than before. I know you are happy because
 you are with "Girly", but sad that you are not with Jabez.
 Nothing will ever replace you, so it's hard to let you go.*

*I know you want to be strong and want us to know that you
 are okay, but it's not easy. The pain we feel is unexplainable.
 The love we have for you was strong, so it's hard to let you go.*

-Kristina Bell

IN APPRECIATION

*We, the family of Gilberth Sasbastian Shea Bell, take this
 opportunity to offer our sincere appreciation to those individ-
 uals and organizations that have offered their assistance and
 support during the loss of our loved one. May God bless each
 and everyone of you.*

-The Family of Gilberth Sasbastian Shea Bell

ORDER OF SERVICE

Entrance Song "If Today Was Your Last Day"
 by Nickleback

Blessing of the Body

Opening Prayer Father Bob Goodyear

First Reading Book of Isaiah 25:6-9
 Sylvia Johnson

Song Choctaw Hymn (Pg. 48)
 Meloni Johnson

Second Reading Book of Roman 8:114-23

Gospel Reading Father Goodyear

Sermon Father Goodyear

Song Choctaw Hymn (Pg. 158)

Communion Father Goodyear

Song Choctaw Hymn (Pg. 117)

Obituary Reading Darlene Vaughn

Poem Reading - Meloni Johnson

Final Farewell

Song - "If Tomorrow Never Comes"
 by Garth Brooks

Graveside Prayers

Song - "Sweet By and By"

PALLBEARERS

Cory Bell	Kevin Solomon	Paul Anderson
Curtis Billie	Lonnie Isaac	Garron Johnson
Andrew McMillan	Skyler Thomas	Jamison Johnson

HONORARY PALLBEARERS

(UNIFIED Stickball Team Members)

Phillip Wade Ben	Joey Stephens	Bryan Williamson
Rodrick Anderson	Brandon Anderson	O'Brian Vaughn
Kelby Anderson	Jaric Anderson	

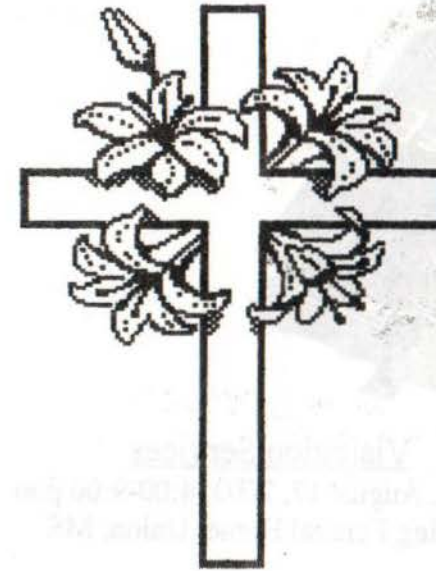
MR VF-119

ECCC

Can it be said, you've seen Jeff Hitt you've seen Jesus or the Father
From now on, you do know him and have seen him. *953 on the Father*
"Philip" said, "Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us."
"Jesus answered: "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father."
"Can you say, 'Show us the Fa-

The preceding quote was Jeff's handwriting found in the margin of Jeff's Bible. It says,
"Can it be said, you've seen Jeff Hitt you've seen Jesus or the Father."

This referred to a scripture in the Bible found at John 15:9, Jesus answered: "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father."



Mr. Jeffrey Glenn Hitt

Born: November 11, 1971

Home in Heaven: August 15, 2003

Loving and devoted father, husband, and follower of our Lord Jesus Christ.



Visitation Services

Sunday, August 17, 2003, 4:00-9:00 p.m.
Milling Funeral Home, Union, MS

Funeral Services

Monday, August 18, 2003, 2:00 p.m.
Hickory Baptist Church, Hickory, MS

Internment

Hudson Chapel Church of God
Union, MS

Ministers

Rev. Rodney Anderson
Rev. Rick Benson
Rev. Ed Dickerson
Rev. Wayne Dickerson
Rev. Paul Oglesbee
Rev. Paul Swindle

Pallbearers

Clay Barnett
Billy McCune
Dale Pattillo
Roger Whitlock
Ronnie Westbrook
Scotty Russell
Chris Clark
Britt Harris

Honorary Pallbearers

Members of the:
ECCC Alumni Association
and the
Newton County Ole Miss Alumni Association

Survivors

Wife: Linda Henley Hitt
Devoted Father of Daughter:
Gillian Henley Hitt
Parents: Bobby and Geraldine Hitt
Sister: Alethia Gail Hitt
Maternal Grandmother: Eunice Dickerson
Paternal Grandmother: Effie Mae Mitchum
Mother-in-law: Faye Henley
Several uncles, aunts, cousins, in-laws, friends and students

MR/F-119

ECCC

MEMORIAL SERVICE

To Honor the Memory of
BYRNE CHRISTOPHER DRUMMOND

September 20, 1988

3:00 P.M.

East Central Community College
Fine Arts Center Auditorium



BYRNE CHRISTOPHER DRUMMOND

October 11, 1967 - September 17, 1988

MEMORIAL SERVICE

To Honor the Memory of

BYRNE CHRISTOPHER DRUMMOND

September 20, 1988
3:00 P.M.

East Central Community College
Fine Arts Center Auditorium

Opening Comments

Dr. Eddie M. Smith, President

Prayer

Mr. Daryl Brown
Basketball Teammate

Song

"Amazing Grace"
Miss Deloris Mullins, Vocalist

Remarks

Mr. Larry Gressett
Men's Basketball Coach

Message

Elder Clifton Jones, Pastor
Jerusalem Temple Church

Silent Tribute

MR VF-119
ECCC

SINGING IN QUIETNESS

So often people ask, "How shall I get through the things that are ahead of me? How can I endure this?" The way to go through is to trust through. What do we do when we trust? What do you do when you trust the bank with your money? You just go about your business without worrying in the slightest degree as to the safety of your money. When you trust a friend, you rely upon that friend. You do not question him. You believe in his loyalty to you. You take it for granted that everything will be all right between you. You do not expect anything unworthy of his friendship. You rest in full assurance in your friend or in your bank.

Trust removes every tendency to be disturbed. That is just the result when you trust God in that simple way. You rely upon him. You take it for granted that things will be all right because you are God's and God is looking after you. Your interests are safe in his hands, and therefore, they must come out all right. Trusting him thus you enter into the rest of faith and from that rest of faith you sing the songs of quietness and of confident assurance.

The songs we sing in quietness are not the songs of battle, not the songs of the army camp, not the songs of the march. They are the songs of holy fellowship, of divine comradeship. They are the songs of the satisfied soul. Let us therefore adopt that attitude of soul toward ourselves, toward God, and toward life and all that it may hold—that it will bring us into the quietness and rest and tranquility of the secret place of the Most High. Let us learn to sing the songs of quiet rejoicing, the songs of those who lie down beside the still waters.

—C. W. Naylor
in *The Secret of the Singing Heart*



"Praise the Lord for his goodness, and for his wonderful works.
For he satisfieth the longing soul, and filleth the hungry soul
with goodness."

—Psalm 107:8-9

A CELEBRATION OF LIFE
FOR
NELLIE NEILL CROSS
BELOVED WIFE OF FRANK,
MOTHER OF CORINNE,
GRANDMOTHER OF NATALIE AND KEN,
FRIEND TO THOUSANDS

GREETING

HYMN "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" 20

PRAYER

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Isaiah 40:1-6, 8-11, 28-31

RESPONSIVE READING Psalm 23 "The Lord is My Sheperd" 560

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON Revelations 21:1-7,22-27; 22:1-5

HYMN "O God, Our Help in Ages Past" 28

GOSPEL John 14:1-7,15-17,27

SOLO "In The Garden" Patsy Johnson Wilkerson

SERMON

ANTHEM "The Holy City"

READING Ovid Vickers

WITNESS

HYMN "Others"

APOSTLE'S CREED 738

LORD'S PRAYER

HYMN "Bless Be The Tie That Binds"

306

BENEDICTION

"Others"

Verse 1

Lord, help me live from day to day
In such a self-for-get-ful way
That e-ven when I kneel to pray
My prayer shall be for - Oth-ers.

Verse 2

Help me in all the work I do
To ev-er be sin-cere and true
And know that all I'd do for you
Must needs be done for - Oth-ers.

Verse 3

Let "Self" be crucified and slain
And bur-ied deep: and all in vain
May ef-forts be to rise a-gain,
Un-less to live for - Others.

Verse 4

And when my work on earth is done,
And my new work in heav'n's begun,
May I for-get the crown I've won,
While think-ing still of - Oth-ers.

CHORUS

Oth-ers, Lord, yes, oth-ers, Let this my mot-to
be, Help me to live for oth-ers, That I may live
like Thee.

MRVF-119

ECCC

**A SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE
AND CELEBRATION**

FOR

LYNN DALE FURGERSON

January 14, 1918 - July 1, 1992



**First United Methodist Church
Starkville, Mississippi**

July 2, 1992

Music for the Gathering

(congregation will please stand as the family enters)

The Word of Grace

Greeting

Prayer

*Hymn 139 *"Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"*

*Affirmation of Faith #881 **The Apostles' Creed**

The Scripture Lessons

**Psalm 23, John 14:1-8,
II Corinthians 4:7-11, 16-17**

*Hymn 451 *"Be Thou My Vision"*

A Time for Remembering

*Mr. Clay Simmons
Rev. William Clark*

Eulogy

Benediction

*The congregation will please stand

Interment will follow at Oktibbeha Memorial Park.

**The Graveside Service
of
Lynn Dale Furgerson**

The Scripture Lesson **Romans 8:35-39**

Firing of the Volleys

"Taps"

Presentation of the Flag to the Family

The Committal and the Benediction



MRVF-119
ECCS
PALLBEARERS
Nephews & Friends

FLOWER BEARERS
Family & Friends

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

your words of love brought much relief to our hearts, consumed in grief; your stretched hands were a blessed sight, a star of hope in our darkest night. your presence here and caring smile has helped to lift our hearts for awhile; your thoughtful acts, your warm embrace helped to brighten this sad dark place.

The Family

INTERMENT
Greater Rose Hill Cemetery

REPAST
Greater Rose Hill Baptist Church

*•Special thanks to Audrey Wiley
•Westhaven Funeral Home and Staff
•Attorney Dennis C. Sweet III. **

Arrangements and Services Entrusted to:

Westhaven Memorial Funeral Home, Inc.

Burial and Undertaking Company

3580 Robinson Road
Jackson, MS 39209

Office: 601-922-3666
Fax: 601-922-5033

306 Depot Street
Utica, MS 39175

Office: 601-885-9551
Fax: 601-885-9553

19068 Highway 51
Hazlehurst, MS 39083

Office: 601-892-7770
Fax: 601-892-7776

*Freddie Davis, Audrey Wiley & Anthony Davis
Owners/Funeral Directors/Counselors*

"Professional Service You Can Depend On"

*Programs By: Williams Consulting
601-942-4803
601-940-2932*

HOMEGOING CELEBRATION OF JERRY MCDONALD



ALPHA
SEPTEMBER 20, 1956

OMEGA
SEPTEMBER 22, 2006

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2006
1:00 P.M.

GREATER ROSE HILL BAPTIST CHURCH
213 MARTIN LUTHER KING DRIVE
UNION, MISSISSIPPI

REVEREND FREDDERICK WALKER, PASTOR
REVEREND SIDNEY JONES, OFFICIATING

†
OUR
PRECIOUS
MEMORIES
JERRY
MCDONALD



TO MY LOVE

*It seems unreal that you are not here,
It seems unreal that God would take you, dear,
For twenty-two years, you've been all I have known,
Look back now, oh how our love had grown,*

*I can't question God, but my heart asks why,
"He is my child," was God's simple reply.
I understand now you have finished God's will,
But my soul feels empty and now half filled.*

*"Til death do us part," is the vow we made,
And the pain deep inside, I'll try to masquerade.
I know that God's will is what's best for me,
And trusting in Him for the things I can't see.*

*But I can't see how, honestly, I will make it through,
I can't see my life without the image of you.
But I can envision heaven and you with new wings,
And through Christ I know I can do all things.*

*I dare not say goodbye because this is not the end,
But please know that you're my life, my love and friend.*

Geneane

WHEN TOMORROW STARTS WITHOUT ME

*When tomorrow starts without me,
and I'm not there to see,
If the sun should rise and find your eyes
all filled with tears for me;
I wish so much you wouldn't cry, the way you did today,
while thinking of the many things,
we didn't get to say.*

*I know how much you love me,
as much as I love you,
and each time that you think of me,
I know you'll miss me too;
But when tomorrow starts without me,
please try to understand,
that an angel came and called my name,
and took me by the hand,
and said my place was ready,
in heaven far above,
and that I'd have to leave behind
all those I dearly love.*

*As I walked through heaven's gates,
I felt so much at home.
When God looked down and smiled at me,
from His great golden throne,
He said, "This is eternity, and all I've promised you.
Today your life on Earth is past,
But here life starts anew.*

*Throughout the years it has meant so much to know that you were there
with all your kind ways and good advice to share. There will never be a
time when we would not want your guiding hand to help us find our way
to solid ground on which to stand. Daddy we use to say if we could change
one thing it would be that you could have more hours that are just for you,
more time to rest, remember and dream about all the places you want to
see, but now we know that you are in a better place and you can do all of
those things.*

We Will Always Love You

The Girls

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MEMORIES

THE OBITUARY & ORDER OF SERVICE
† OUR PRECIOUS MEMORIES

Mr. Jerry McDonald



ORDER OF SERVICE

Master of Ceremony - Mr. Johnny Slaughter

Processional

Selection.....Rose Hill Choir

Scripture/ Prayer.....Reverend Nelson

Solo.....Sis. Annie Evans

Acknowledgment/ Obituary.....Sis. Gloria Hadley

Selection.....Rose Hill Choir

Eulogy.....Reverend Sidney Jones

Funeral Directors of Westhaven Funeral Home in Charge

Recessional

Out of respect for the family, the program will proceed as printed

MEMORIES ARE FOREVER

*You were a gift given to us from above
A special gift that was filled with love.*

*God left you here for a long time
And all of the memories are forever on our minds.*

*Although you are gone and there is a space
We know you have gone to a better place.*

*We will see you again in the years ahead
For your spirit lives, only the body is dead.*

*Memories are forever and this is so true
And in our hearts We Will Always Love You!*

*Loving memories,
Sisters & Brothers*

OBITUARY

*For me to live is Christ and to die is gain. Philippians 1:1
thus it was on Friday, September 22, 2006 at 8:23 p.m. in
Dallas, Texas that Jerry was called home to live with the
Lord.*

*Jerry was the 10th child born to Mildred McDonald and the
late J.C. McDonald, Sr. in Newton County, Mississippi.*

*At an early age Jerry accepted Christ and united with the
Rose Hill Church where he served diligently and fervently in
many ministries. These ministries included Sunday School
teacher, Trustee Ministry, St. Albany Lodge #394 and other
ministries where laborers were needed.*

*Jerry was a graduate of Union High School, East Central
Community College and Mississippi State University. He was
employed with Lake Elementary School and La-Z-Boy
South.*

*On December 7, 1983 Jerry united in Holy Matrimony with
Geneane Carter with vows til death do us part. God blessed
this union with some beautiful daughters.*

*To reminisce upon the fragrances of his life, he leaves a loving
and dedicated wife, Geneane McDonald; four loving
daughters: Yumecka Campbell (Kaithyn), Jerica, Jelessa, and
Jerri McDonald, all of Union, MS; a loving mother, Mildred
McDonald; mother-in-law, Cleo Carter; sisters: Mildred
Burrage, Dorothy Lawton (Eddie), Minnie Fairley, Bobbie
Mathis (Charles), Bettie McDonald, Patsy Michael (Johnny),
Rita Mays (Michael), Ruby Dukes, Lesia Williams (Jack),
Brenda McDonald, and Mary Amos; brothers: Willie Jay
McDonald, J.C. McDonald (Evelyn), Larry McDonald, and
Charles McDonald (Bobby); and a host of aunts, uncles,
nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.*

*Fair winds and following seas,
may forever you feel, upon your cheek, the
salty breeze.*

*Your spirit lives on in many a heart,
your words captured, and never to depart.
May your loved ones have the comfort in
knowing,
to heaven is where you are going.
For all that they have to do is look above,
and they will be reminded of your love.*

Fair winds and following seas, Chief Lee.



In Loving Memory Leonard H. Lee, Jr.



February 15, 1926 – April 1, 2017

*CSCM Leonard H. Lee Jr.
USN Retired*

Leonard H. (Chief) Lee, 91 of Decatur, MS passed away on April 1, 2017 at the VA nursing home in Kosciusko after a long battle with Alzheimer's. He was born on February 15, 1926 in

Warrior, AL, a rural area north of Birmingham, AL.

He joined the United States Navy during WWII and participated in the Philippine Liberation Campaign and the Japanese Homeland Occupation after Japan's surrender. In 1946, he was assigned to the Atlantic Fleet where he spent much of his naval career. He retired from the Navy while assigned to the Supply Research and Development Facility at Bayonne, NJ with the rank of Master Chief.

After retiring from the Navy, he took a position with ARA Slater Food Service, currently known as ARAMARK. After a brief stint at what was formerly known as Florence State College in Florence, AL, he was named the Director of Food Services at what would become East Central Community College in Decatur in 1964. He remained at East Central until his retirement in 1988.

He is survived by two sons: Mike Lee (Brandon, MS) and Gary Lee and his wife Jan (Alpharetta, GA); three grandsons Curry Lee and his wife Suzanne (Nashville, TN), Tanner Lee (Brandon, MS), and Matthew Lee (Alpharetta, GA), and two granddaughters Reagan Lee (Brandon, MS) and Marissa Lee (Alpharetta, GA); brother Wayne Lee (Locust Fork, AL), sister Inez Lee (Smithfield, NC), and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his wife Elizabeth (Betty), daughter Brenda, brothers Jim and Jesse, sisters Mildred, Barbra, and Clina Bell, and his parents.

Visitation is Tuesday, April 4, 2017 from 5:00pm to 8:00pm at Newton County Funeral Home-North. A committal service with military burial in the Decatur Cemetery at 11:30am on

Wednesday, April 5, 2017.

In Memory Of

Leonard Homer Lee, Jr.

Age: 91

February 15, 1926 - April 1, 2017

Visitation

Newton County Funeral Home - North

05:00 PM - 08:00 PM

April 4, 2017

Committal Service

Decatur City Cemetery

11:30 AM

April 5, 2017

Clergy

Bro. Philip Smith

Resting Place

Decatur City Cemetery

Decatur, MS



Footprints

One night I had a dream. I was walking along the beach with the Lord, and across the skies flashed scenes from my life. In each scene I noticed two sets of footprints in the sand. One was mine, and one was the Lord's.

When the last scene of my life appeared before me, I looked back at the footprints in the sand, and to my surprise I noticed that many times along the path of my life there was only one set of footprints. And I noticed that it was at the lowest and saddest times in my life.

I asked the Lord about it. "Lord, you said that once I decided to follow you, you would walk with me all the way. But I notice that during the most troublesome times in my life there is only one set of footprints. I don't understand why you left my side when I needed you most."

The Lord replied, "My precious child, I love you and would never leave you. During your times of trial and suffering, where you see only one set of footprints, I was carrying you."

SARA ELIZABETH LINVILLE HEARD

October 29, 1926

June 18, 2007

MEMORIAL SERVICE

Decatur United Methodist Church
Decatur, Mississippi

Thursday, June 21, 2007
11:00 A.M.

CLERGYMEN

Rev. Johnny Crosby

PALLBEARERS

Jason Eason
Matthew Heard
Rob Campbell

Tyler Dorsett
George Campbell
Lee Mangum

Robert Campbell III

FINAL RESTING PLACE

Brooksville Cemetery
Brooksville, Mississippi

Sara E. Heard

Sara Elizabeth Linville Heard, 80, died Monday, June 18, 2007, at Baxter Hospital Mountian Home, Ark. Visitation is today 6-8 p.m. at Newton County Funeral Home in Newton. Funeral services are 11 a.m. Thursday, June 21, 2007 at Decatur United Methodist Church, in Decatur, with burial in the Brooksville Cemetery Brooksville. Newton County Funeral Home (601-635-3200) in Newton is handling the arrangements. Sara Linville Heard died suddenly in Mountian Home, Arkanasas, on June 18, 2007 where she was vacationing with her entire family.

Sara was born in Ripley but grew up in Trenton, TN. After graduating from Peaboby High School in Trenton she received her bachelor's and Masters Degrees from Mississippi State College for Women (now Mississippi University for Women).

Mrs. Heard taught science in Columbus and West Point. She later taught college level science at East Central Community College and sponsored Phi Theta Kappa there.

Retiring in 1987 Sara was an active member of the community in Decatur, belonging to the Decatur First United Methodist Church, the UMW, the Progressive Club, and the Steel Magnolias. She was a past member of Delta Kappa Gamma.

Survivors include: husband, George Heard of Decatur; daughters, Melissa and husband, Charlie, of Pensacola, FL., Beth and husband Randy, of Forest, Nancy and husband Bob of Huntsville, AL; son, Tom and wife Becky, of Madison; grandchildren, Samantha Dorsett and Tyler Dorsett, Jason and wife Leslie Eason, Sarah Jane Eason, Matthew Heard, Lauren Heard, Sydney Campbell, Rob Campbell, George Campbell; two great-grandchildren, Eason and Cole Logan.

Preceded in death by parents, Walter and Sarah Linville; and sister, Jane Campbell.

Memorials may be sent to Palmer Home for Children in Columbus, MS. P.O. Box 746; or to the Library Fund of the United Methodist Church of Decatur, MS, 268 W Broad St. 39327.

Published in the Clarion Ledger June 20, 2007

Dalphia R. Hathorn
Louisville

Dalphia Renae Hathorn, 24, a student at East Community College in Decatur died of cardiac arrest December 7, 2004, at Winston Medical Center. Services are 2 p.m. Saturday at New Zion M.B. Church with burial in the church cemetery. Beck Funeral Home of Louisville is handling arrangements.

VF Archives
Memorial Services
Cancer claims ECCC's Jamie Clark
-2001

Sec. C pages 1+3

Clark lost his battle, but won over his players ...

*Thought for the day:
Sometimes you have to
laugh to keep from crying.
Sometimes even that's not
enough.*

I can remember the first time I met Jamie Clark.

He had just been approved as baseball coach at East Central Community College and was standing in the parking lot on top of the hill that overlooks the Warrior baseball field.

As fate would have it, he spent most of his 14 years at EC trying to get his teams to the top of the hill.

"Tell me about the baseball around here," Clark said after we had introduced ourselves.

"It's pretty bad," I told him. "They won three games last year. Played 32."

When he didn't jump in his truck and head back to the Delta, I thought he either knew something I didn't or else he was just plain nuts.

After all, the two seasons before he took over in the fall of 1987, the Warriors went 2-28 in 1986 and 3-29 in '87.

There were many reasons why the EC baseball program was so bad then ... no scholarships, a small district in which several high schools didn't even play the game, and not exactly a glut of talent at the ones that did.

So when EC went 17-25 his first season, it was nearly a time for rejoicing. At least now, the team might win.

A 20-19 showing in 1989

started a run of 11 straight seasons with at least a break-even record.

Warriors win pennant

Clark always liked a good laugh. I'll never forget finding a cassette in the early 1990s that had the call on Bobby Thomson's famous home run — "the

Giants win the pennant, the Giants win the pennant" — playing it, and then kidding Jamie about when was he going to win a pennant at EC. "Boy, wouldn't that be something?" Clark said with a far away look.

EC? Win a championship? Not as long as Gulf Coast, Pearl River, and Hinds had

teams.

A rules change that allowed schools to get players from beyond their district opened the door and Clark worked hard recruiting and began fielding some very competitive teams — with the 1996 squad starting a string of five straight appearances in the Region 23 Tournament.

A 40-18 showing in 1997 set a school record for wins that still stands. That team was the MACJC state runner-up to traditional powerhouse Gulf Coast.

In 1998, Clark's vision came true as the Warriors won the MACJC State Tournament at Scooba. An opening-day win over East Mississippi put EC in the winners' bracket where the Warriors rallied from a 6-0

See **Clark**, Page 3C



**Marty
Stamper**

Clark

Continued from page 1C

deficit to beat Gulf Coast 9-7 in the second round.

On a splendid spring Sunday afternoon, the Warriors finally reached the top of the hill, beating Gulf Coast again for their first state championship after spotting the Bulldogs an early 8-3 lead.

A program that once couldn't win back-to-back games was now the state champion.

"It's a happy day in Warriortown," Clark said following the trophy presentation. "For these guys," he said pointing at his squad, "and for a lot of former Warriors too."

Clark loses battle

Indeed, it was a glorious day. But that was then. Clark lost his battle with an inoperable brain tumor Wednesday night at his home in Decatur. He went from a picture of health at the start of the 2000 fall drills to receiving the medical prognosis of his remaining time on earth just a few weeks into 2001.

"You can't complain about tough breaks," Clark said after coaching a doubleheader with Northwest on Feb. 14. "It just isn't fair to do that. A lot of children die every day, don't they? What about them?"

And that's how he faced his unbeatable foe ... with all that he had.

Already badly weakened, Clark could only watch as his players and managers took care of the cleanup chores that chilly day. He thanked them, knowing they probably had some Valentine's Day

business to tend to.

"East Central baseball has a lot of special players and a lot of special people," a misty-eyed Clark said knowing full well of their willing sacrifices for him.

Jamie, Mickey, and the Babe

Baseball games were only a small part of Clark's legacy. You'll find many of his former players coaching today — see Philadelphia's Scott Hill, Neshoba Central's Brian Jones, Enterprise's Mark Davis, Forest's Luke Gibbon, Noxapater's Zach Sanders, Winona's Gregg Perry, or even EC assistant coach Jake Yarborough as proof.

Ask them how their time at EC helped prepare them for their life's calling and you'll learn about Clark.

Being on time and doing a job every day without expecting a big reward were traits that Clark demanded. If you were there to play baseball, then you weren't there to break curfew, skip class, and frequent the watering holes other students often managed to do.

He'd much rather have a player with just above average ability who would work hard to get better than a star who was content with his ability.

As former player Craig Vowell said earlier this spring: "We were talking about coach Clark when we first found out about it. A lot of guys didn't like him when they were there, but we'd all say we are better men today because of him."

Clark was definitely proud of the '98 championship team, but his players that made the honor roll each semester were his real pride and joy.

Some would go on to play at four-year schools — including two who appeared in the NCAA Division I College World Series — and a few have played for minor league professional teams. But he knew most of his players would make their living in a more traditional role and helping create solid citizens was a top priority.

One goal that Clark didn't attain was winning a Region 23 championship.

"We're just two players away ...," he'd always say with a long pause. "Babe Ruth and Cy Young."

Clark is probably busy now trying to get those two on his new team. Joe DiMaggio, Mickey Mantle, and Eddie Matthews are probably high on his list of recruits, too.

Can't you imagine Jamie trying to get the Babe to make curfew? Or maybe lead off an inning with a bunt? Yet you know he'd try.

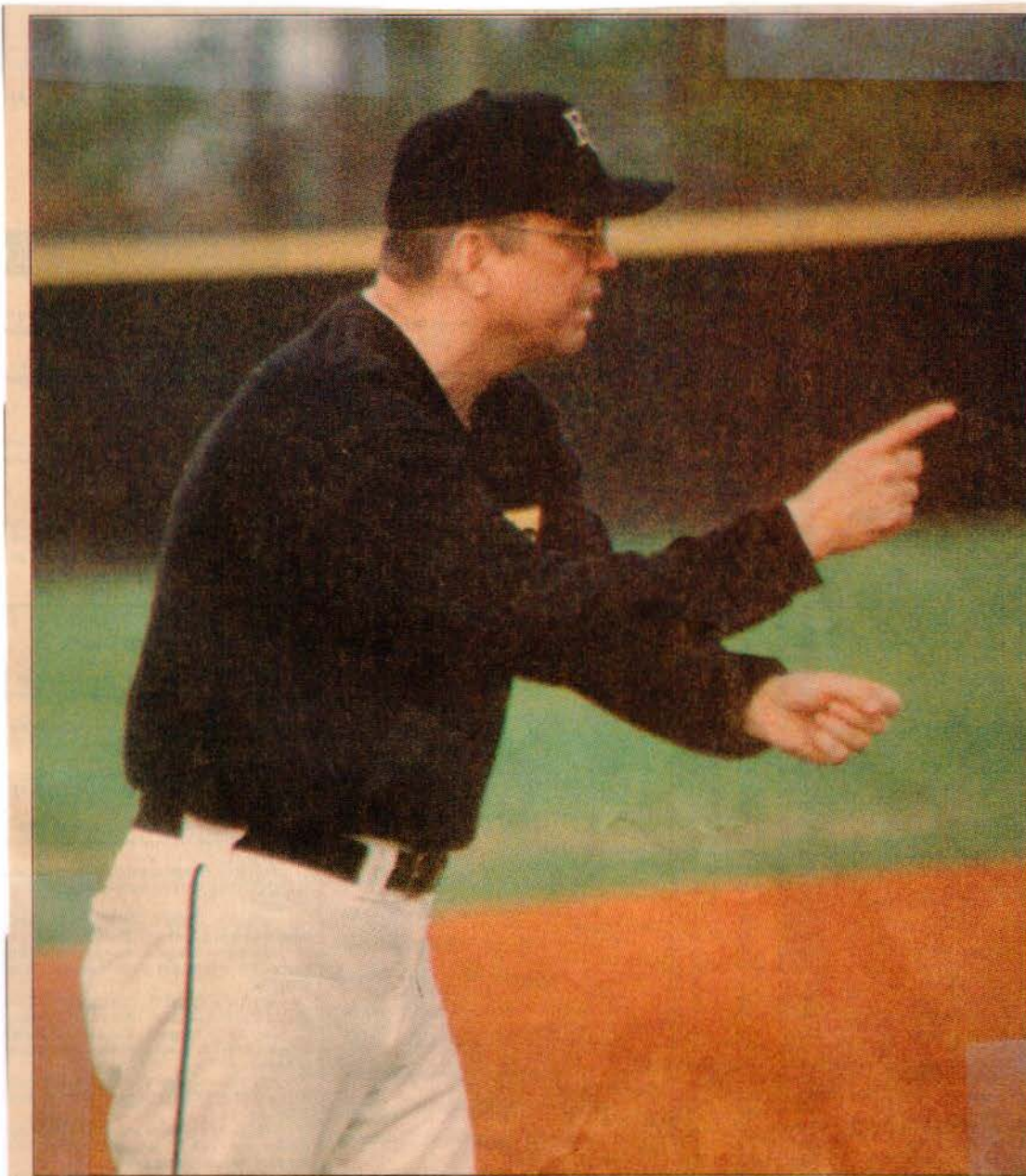
(Clark loved limericks and we spent many hours making them up. Just ask his family. Here's one for old times' sake.)

There once was a coach named Clark,
Who brought a program in from the dark.

You may question his sense,
But on the right-field fence,
You'll see that he made his mark.

• Visitation is tonight from 6-8 p.m. at Barham Funeral Home between Decatur and Newton. Funeral services are set for Saturday at 11 a.m. at Clarke-Venable Church in Decatur with burial in Caile Cemetery in Belzoni.

Marty Stamper is a sports writer for The Meridian Star. E-mail him at mstamper@themeridianstar.com.



Marty Stamper/The Meridian Star

SYMBOL OF COURAGE — From the moment he arrived on the Decatur campus, East Central Community College baseball coach Jamie Clark pointed his Warriors in the direction of the MACJC state title. He finally got there, but on Wednesday, Clark lost his six-month battle with cancer.

THE NESHOPA DEMOCRAT

DECATUR MS 39327-0129

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<http://www.neshobademocrat.com>

MRVF-119

ECCC

Business Institution in Neshoba County

Philadelphia, Mississippi 39350

Wednesday, September 1, 2004

123rd Year — 1881-2004

No. 35

farewell to a 2nd soldier

Stovall brightest among leaders

The following article was reported by Debbie Burt Myers, Steven G. Watson and Jim Prince and written by Mr. Prince.

1st Lt. Matthew Ryan Stovall was laid to rest Sunday afternoon under an unrelenting August sun beneath the shade of a persimmon tree in a corner of the tiny Coldwater Baptist Church Cemetery almost in sight of his boyhood home.

Hundreds of mourners had lined the nine-mile route through town and down the winding, pastoral Mississippi 21 in simple but extraordinary displays of patriotism, many waving or displaying American flags, holding homemade banners and standing at attention with their hands over their hearts as the two-mile-long procession passed.

The 25-year-old Neshoba County native, a member of the National Guard's 367th Maintenance Company, was killed Aug. 22 in Iraq when a roadside bomb exploded beside the vehicle in which he was riding while on a humanitarian aid convoy mission.

Stovall was the second Neshoba County native killed in Iraq. Joshua S. Ladd died May 1 when a convoy he was defending was attacked. Stovall was the 16th Mississippian to die in Iraq.

Stovall was remembered Sunday by the commander of the Mississippi National Guard as a genuine leader and one who has no doubt found eternal rest given his firm belief and faith in Christ.

About 500 people crowded into McClain-Hays Funeral Home Chapel and the vestibule for Stovall's service.

Wreaths of red, white and blue flowers surrounded Stovall's military-issued hardwood casket while a framed military portrait stood nearby.

Three awards, presented to him posthumously, were placed near the coffin: the Bronze Medal and Mississippi Magnolia Cross, for meritorious service; and the Purple Heart, for wounds received in action.

Stovall had recently been promoted from 2nd lieutenant just prior to his death.

Leslie Dickinson didn't know Matthew Stovall or his family but felt the need to show her support. She stood across from the courthouse with her husband Donald and 9-month-old son Parker all waving flags and watching the funeral procession pass.

"It was just such a tragic event," Dickinson said. "I just think about that little boy growing up without a father. I couldn't imagine."

She was amazed at the turnout saying it really showed what the community was made of.

"I was really surprised and I was really proud of the support everyone showed," she said.

The Philadelphia Fire Department deployed firefighting apparatus to the square as a sign of respect and aided with traffic control as did the Fairview Volunteer Fire Department

See **STOVALL**, page 18A

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Stovall

Continued from page 1A

near the cemetery.

The procession was led by a motorcycle officer from the Philadelphia Police Department along with five patrol cars, two from the Neshoba County Sheriff's Office and three from the PPD.

At the intersection of Mississippi 15 and 16 at Williamsville mourners lined the highway and a large American flag was displayed by a group on a hill at the Mississippi 21 exit. Along the route people stood outside their homes and flags were placed on mailboxes.

Among the tributes pouring in from Iraq for Stovall are those from the 401st Transportation Company to which he was attached four months ago.

The accounts paint a vivid picture of Stovall, his character, his personality and his devotion, in the days leading up to his death. (See story, page 1A.)

Maj. Gen. Harold A. Cross, the commander of the Mississippi National Guard, said during the funeral that the three citations presented posthumously to Stovall were some of the country's most prestigious awards.

"But make no mistake about it, the greatest citation has already been read for Matt Stovall ... when he stood before our ultimate commander in chief.

"Probably at attention with that broad smile on his face, he heard those immortal words said to him because of his belief in a Savior: well done my good and faithful servant, well done."

Cross recited the military oath of office and said no other officer who has worn the uniform of this country has exemplified and fulfilled his promise as well as Stovall.

"That broad smile and that great, great vigor of emotion made people want to follow him. He was an ideal officer, an officer that comes about with just a few people every generation."

Cross praised Stovall for rising up and saying, "send me" after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

Because of courageous men and women like him, this country "will never become shackled and will always be a citadel of freedom and great hope for the rest of the world," he said.

Cross said he would always remember Stovall and the many free-



Matthew Ryan Stovall
1978 — 2004

when he votes and when he is called for jury duty.

"I will remember him when I look at that great Star Spangled Banner flying at ball games or on our public buildings or on display whenever we have an event where we stand up with pride and sing the national anthem."

The Rev. Bob Patty of Chattanooga, Stovall's former pastor, described the fallen soldier as a young man who loved life. He recalled watching him grow up as the youngest of three children in a close family that included loving grandparents.

He said Stovall was diagnosed with a heart condition at an early age and recalled his parents' concern when he was hospitalized on numerous occasions.

"He had a heart that would suddenly take off beating a lot faster than it should," Patty said. "I wonder, perhaps even then, if God was trying to tell us that little heart had to beat the proverbial three score and 10 years (70 years) in 25 years," he said.

The Rev. Chris Vowell, a childhood friend of Stovall's brother Matt, said he searched and prayed for words to say what would make everything alright for his family and those who see a wife who needs her husband; a little boy who needs his daddy; and "my friend who needs a brother."

An emotional Vowell said he was proud of the folks in uniform who are serving the country, but feared that the war against sin was being lost at home with many American's losing their goodness.

He quoted author Alexis de Toc-

America is good. When America ceases to be good, America will cease to be great."

Many, Vowell said, were more concerned about making a dollar, climbing the ladder to success, or reaching the American dream than accepting Jesus as their Savior.

"Folks, when we start letting our young men and women go over there and fight for something that's not worth fighting for, then it's time for repentance, it's time for us to get our lives right.

"My prayer is that Matt's life, Matt's service, will bring some good here today for people who need to get some things right with God."

Elmer Pickens read a tribute written by his son, Wesley Pickens, who served with Stovall in Iraq.

An emotional Pickens said his son "wanted to be here so bad" for the funeral.

"On this day, watching the beautiful sunrise carries little consolation, for a candle in my heart has been extinguished forever," the soldier, stationed in Camp Taqaddum, Iraq, wrote.

"The events of war may bring complete strangers together in the bonds of brotherhood, but no greater anxiety compares to the knowledge that one's own flesh and blood is out of the reach of a loving brother's protection," he said. (See entire tribute, Page 4A.)

Born Dec. 19, 1978, Stovall was a 1997 graduate of Neshoba Central High School, a graduate of East Central Community College and attended Mississippi State University. He had been a resident of Southaven for the past three years.

He was attached to the 401st Transportation Co. in Iraq.

Stovall was a member of Grace Baptist Church in Philadelphia.

Survivors include his wife, Natalie Stovall of Southaven; a son, Walker Stovall of Southaven; parents, Buck and Ellon Stovall of Philadelphia; a sister, Marsha Vance and her husband, Shelton of Madison; a brother, Mark Stovall and his wife, Jennifer of Starkville; two nieces, Olivia Vance and Kaley Stovall; one nephew, Jackson Vance; grandmother, Catherine Hardy of Philadelphia; mother-in-law, Lora Crawford of Southaven; father-in-law, Ronnie Crawford of Southaven; and brother-in-law, Justin Crawford of Southaven.

An education fund has been set up for Stovall's son. Memorials may be made to the Walker Stovall Education Fund, c/o The Citizens Bank, P.O. Box 209, Philadelphia, MS

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Mourners began lining Beacon Street as early as 1:30 p.m. Sunday, waiting for the funeral procession. Many brought their own flags or were given small hand-held flags by members of the NCHS Jr. ROTC or the Community Development Partnership.

The ROTC unit also placed larger flags in flag holders along the street.

Lynette Kilpatrick and a friend were standing at the railroad depot and she was holding a small American flag, the same flag she said she waved at the send-off for the 367th. A final farewell was only appropriate with that same flag, she said.

About 500 people filed into the small cemetery, some eventually encircling the burgundy funeral tent where family members sat as others lined the chain-link fence.

A large formation of military personnel stood to the left of the funeral tent and saluted as the casket was put into place.

The silence before the service was shattered by the traditional 21-gun salute for a fallen soldier. A woman yelped in response and even the rigid composure of a soldier was lost for a moment.

A bugler played Taps.

Men wept openly. Women clutched the arms of men and wiped their eyes with tissue. Many mopped sweat off their brows in the 90-degree heat. Some were overcome briefly by the heat.

Throughout the service Stovall's 2-year-old son Walker fidgeted with a small flag, moving from one lap to another. Well behaved, he watched and reacted to his mother and grandparents as they wept.

When Gen. Cross presented both Natalie Stovall and Ellon and Buck Stovall with folded American flags Walker smiled at him, reaching out to touch the flag and then holding it with his mother.

When the service concluded, one

at a time family members walked to the casket touching it and placing flowers or flags on top.

Natalie Stovall held her son who reached out to touch the casket, then his mother's face.

Before the graveside service, members of Coldwater Baptist Church worked to set up tables and prepare food for a meal following the interment.

On the wall of the fellowship hall are pictures of several members serving overseas. On one wall a picture of Ladd alongside one of Clanton Griffin Mathews who was killed in World War II.

Both were members of the Coldwater Baptist Church. Members said they haven't had time to get a picture of Matthew Stovall to put up on the same wall.

A memorial service for Stovall was planned today in Southaven where he and his wife made their home.

Clockwise, from top: Mourners lined the 9-mile route 1st Lt. Matthew Ryan Stovall's funeral procession took Sunday. His widow, Natalie, holding son Walker, 2, was presented an American flag that draped Stovall's coffin. At left, his brother-in-law Justin Crawford and to the widow's right, Lt. Stovall's mother and father, Ellon and Buck Stovall. Pallbearers carry the casket. Hundreds of people lined both sides of Beacon Street downtown. A little girl was among those who waited downtown to pay her respects.



Photo by Jim Prince



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Photo by Jim Prince



Photo by Jim Weber/The Commercial Appeal



Photo by Kenneth Billings

MEVF-119 P.5

Carolyn Brown's Obituary by the Los Angeles Times

Mr. Viduers:

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Stacy



BROWN, Carolyn Pugh

January 24, 1923 - July 1, 2012

Carolyn Pugh Brown, age 89, passed away in Los Angeles, CA on July 1, 2012. Carolyn was born in Newton, MS to Roscoe Conkling and Eva Alexander Pugh. She is survived by her daughter Shelby Brown and her two grandchildren, Troy and Riley Sandberg of Los Angeles. Carolyn married her husband Thomas Kite Brown III in Berlin, 1949, where he was a translator at the Nuremberg War Crimes trials, and she a proofreader and editor of trial records. Carolyn and Tom spent most of their married life in Maryland, where Carolyn held many leadership roles as a librarian in government service, including in the Executive Office of the President and as Director of the Library, National Institutes of Health. Carolyn was an avid traveler with Tom and together they roamed the world over many decades. A loyal friend, wife, mother, and grandmother.

Carolyn was the
last surviving child
of RC Pugh -
1st president of ELJC.

Don Dennyway

9-12-12



Published in the Los Angeles Times on August 15, 2012

<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/latimes/obituary.aspx?page=lifestory&pid=159187746>

Jessie Mae Everett

Funeral services for Jessie Mae Everett will be held at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, June 19, 2013, at Clarke-Venable Baptist Church in Decatur. Burial will be in Decatur Cemetery.

Mrs. Everett, 84 of Decatur, died Sunday, June 16, 2013, at Anderson Regional Medical Center in Meridian.

Gardening and tending to flowers were a favorite past time, as she was a Master Gardener.

She loved her grandchildren dearly, and was an avid supporter of Ole Miss. She was member of the Decatur Progressive Club. She was an original trustee of the Decatur Public Library and Newton County and Kemper-Newton Regional Library System since their inception. She was a lifelong member of the Delta Kappa Gamma, serving as State President. She also served as President of the Federation of Women's Clubs of Mississippi. She was a Troop Leader and Den Mother of the Decatur Boy Scouts and Girls Scouts, and served on the Meridale Girl Scout Council. She was a retired business instructor at East Central Community College, and served as member of the National Business Education Association.

She was the first woman recipient of the Golden Deeds award with the Decatur Ex-

change Club.

She was also proud of the fact that she was selected "Volunteer of the Year" by The Clarion Ledger. She believed the old adage "idle hands are the devil's workshop."

Survivors include her husband, Bobby Everett of Decatur; one son, Keith Everett and wife Darlene of Meridian; one daughter, Lisa Everett Lucovich and husband Andy of Meridian; four grandchildren, Stewart Everett of New York City, NY, John Everett of Meridian, Jessica Lucovich of Memphis, Tenn, and Allison Lucovich of Meridian.

She was preceded in death by her parents, B.C. and Maggie Luke Stewart of Neshoba County; and three

brothers, Luke, Tommy, and John.

Memorial donations may be made to the Decatur Public Library.

Newton County Funeral Home of Newton is in charge of arrangements.

Friends and family may sign an online guest book at www.newtoncountyfuneralhome.com

paid obituary

02-27-08

MRVF 1A

Student found dead at ECCC

By Cheryl McLain

The Newton Record

An investigation is under way into the death of an East Central Community College student whose body was found about 9:15 a.m. in his dorm room Wednesday morning on the Decatur campus by a maintenance worker. The student was found in Neshoba Hall and did not have a roommate.

ECCC president Dr. Phil A. Sutphin said a preliminary report from the Mississippi Bureau of Investigation has indicated that the student died from a self-inflicted gunshot wound.

Dr. Sutphin said the victim's family has been notified and more details will be released at a later time.

"This is a very unfortunate incident and the college expresses

its sympathies to the family," said Dr. Sutphin.

The Mississippi Bureau of Investigation is assisting local law enforcement. Its spokesman has not yet returned calls for comment.

As to how the student got the gun on campus it is not known but Decatur Police Chief Joedy Pennington said it was believed the student brought the gun

with him onto the campus even though the college doesn't allow guns on campus.

"The college was put on lockdown until we figured out what was going on," Decatur Police Chief Joedy Pennington said. "The lockdown was lifted and classes resumed shortly after 10 a.m. and no other students appeared to have been in danger."

Newton Record
2-27-08 1A

Gun access eyed in dorm suicide

By Kathleen Baydala

kbydala@clarionledger.com

Officials have not determined how a student who fatally shot himself Tuesday inside his East Central Community College dorm room had access to a gun on the Decatur campus.

"I couldn't tell you at this point. I assume he brought it with him when he came," college President Phil Sutphin said. "But our regulations don't allow guns on campus."

Police say the student took his

own life sometime between 8-9 a.m. College officials still have not identified the student out of deference to his parents, who do not live in the Decatur area.

The student's body was found in Neshoba Hall about 9:15 a.m. by a maintenance worker. The student did not have a roommate, Sutphin said.

"The college was put on lockdown until we figured out what was going on," Decatur Police Chief Joedy Pennington said.

The lockdown was lifted and

classes resumed shortly after 10 a.m.

Pennington said no other students appeared to be in any danger.

Investigators collected statements Tuesday afternoon from other students in the dormitory and classmates.

"They all pretty much said he was a good guy who got along with everybody," the chief said.

Meanwhile, the weapon has been submitted for testing at the State Crime Lab, and the body

will be autopsied by the state pathologist.

The Mississippi Bureau of Investigation is assisting local law enforcement. Its spokesman did not return calls for comment.

"This is a very unfortunate incident, and the college expresses its sympathies to the family," Sutphin said in a written statement.

To comment on this story, call Kathleen Baydala at (601) 961-7262.

Clarion Ledger 2-27-08 (B1)

02-28-08

MRUF-119

Mark G. McEachern Ridgeland

Mark Gibson McEachern was born September 29, 1984 and died February 26, 2008 at the age of 23. A funeral service will be held 4:00 p.m. Friday in the chapel of Wright & Ferguson Funeral Home in Ridgeland with burial following in Parkway Memorial Cemetery. Visitation will be 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.



Thursday **McEachern** and 2:00 p.m. Friday at the funeral home.

He leaves behind his father, Raymond Gibson McEachern, of Ridgeland, MS; mother Carolyn Poole Ellis and stepfather, Wilson N. Ellis, of Ridgeland, MS; siblings, Amy McEachern and Wyatt McEachern of Ridgeland, MS; Jill McEachern, and John McEachern, of Tampa, FL; paternal grandmother, Josephine McEachern of Ridgeland, MS; maternal aunts, Beverly Poole Peoples of Madison, MS and Donna Poole Mills of Springfield, MO; paternal uncles, Frank McEachern of Dallas, TX and Dr.

Charles M. McEachern, Jr. of Topeka, KS; and paternal aunts, Hazel McEachern Lott of Brandon, MS; Laura McEachern Clark of Raleigh, NC; and Josie McEachern Tucker of Huntsville, AL.

Mark was predeceased by his paternal grandfather, Dr. Charles M. McEachern, Sr., and maternal grandparents, John R. Poole and Geraldine Ware Poole.

Mark attended Madison Central High School and was a straight 'A' student at East Central Community College in Decatur, MS, where he was well liked and seemed to be headed in an upward, positive direction. When Mark was little, his teacher commented that he was a "happy little boy with a big heart". Mark's mother says he was a wonderful, loving son, who affectionately referred to her as "Mudders" and was the joy of her life. His brother Wyatt says, "Mark was very intellectual, always inquisitive about new computer technology, and more importantly had a great personality with a heart of gold". He will be deeply missed by all of his family.

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Sara E. Heard

Decatur

Sara Elizabeth Linville Heard, 80, died Monday, June 18, 2007, at Baxter Hospital Mountain Home, Ark. Visitation is today 6-8 p.m. at Newton County Funeral Home in Newton. Funeral services are 11 a.m. Thursday, June 21, 2007 at Decatur United Methodist Church, in Decatur, with burial in the Brooksville Cemetery Brooksville. Newton County Funeral Home (601-635-3200) in Newton is handling the arrangements.

Sara Linville Heard died suddenly in Mountain Home, Arkansas, on June 18, 2007 where she was vacationing with her entire family.

Sara was born in Ripley but grew up in Trenton, TN. After graduating from Peabody High School in Trenton she received her bachelor's and Masters Degrees from Mississippi State College for Women (now Mississippi University for Women).

Mrs. Heard taught science in Columbus and West Point. She later taught college level science at East Central Community College and sponsored Phi Theta Kappa there.

Retiring in 1987 Sara was an active member of the community in Decatur, belonging to the Decatur First United Methodist Church, the UMW, the Progressive Club, and the Steel Magnolias. She was a past member of Delta Kappa Gamma.

Survivors include: husband, George Heard of Decatur; daughters, Melissa and husband, Charlie, of Pensacola, FL., Beth and husband Randy, of Forest, Nancy and husband Bob of Huntsville, AL; son, Tom and wife Becky, of Madison; grandchildren, Samantha Dorsett and Tyler Dorsett, Jason and wife Leslie Eason, Sarah Jane Eason, Matthew Heard, Lauren Heard, Sydney Campbell, Rob Campbell, George Campbell; two great-grandchildren, Eason and Cole Logan.

Preceded in death by parents, Walter and Sarah Linville; and sister, Jane Campbell.

Memorials may be sent to Palmer Home for Children in Columbus, MS. P.O. Box 746; or to the Library Fund of the United Methodist Church of Decatur, MS, 268 W Broad St. 39327.

03/22/06

MRVF 119

Laurel coach, Philadelphia native dead at age 40

Meridian Star 3/22/06

By Shawn Wansley

Laurel Leader-Call

LAUREL — There was a tremendous sense of sadness across the campus of Laurel High School Thursday as students, teachers and administrators were trying to cope with the sudden death of assistant football coach Kelvin Lyon.

Lyon, 40, collapsed and died of an apparent heart attack Wednesday evening while mowing his lawn.

No one was taking the loss harder than Laurel head football coach Milton Smith.

"It's really, really tough right now," Laurel head coach Milton Smith said as his team prepared for tonight's Homecoming game against South Jones. "He was a good friend and he was good with the kids. He was a good role model for the kids."

Lyon, a Philadelphia native and Neshoba Central High School graduate, was in his second season as an assistant with the Tornadoes. He played at East Central Community College and Emporia State in Kansas.

"He was the quintessential people person," Laurel principal Carolyn Stone said. "He loved people and he loved our kids at the school. He had a tremendous impact on them."

Lyon, who coached the defensive line for the Golden Tornadoes, left the field house after practice around 6 p.m. Wednesday. He rode a bicycle to his apartment just a few blocks away and began mowing his lawn. Moments later, he collapsed in the yard. He was found by neighbors and taken to South Central Regional Medical Center

It's really tough right now. He was a good friend and he was good with the kids. He was a good role model for the kids.

Laurel head coach
Milton Smith

where attempts to revive him were unsuccessful.

"What a great guy," fellow assistant coach Matt Smith said. "We would take the Gator up to the practice field together and we would talk about a lot of things that had nothing to do with football. In fact, yesterday we were talking about playing golf because it was such a beautiful day outside. It's very sad."

Smith said Lyon was well-respected in football circles and was friends with former NFL player Fred McNair, current Baltimore Ravens defensive end Adalius Thomas, New Orleans Saints running back Deuce McAllister and agent Bus Cook of Hattiesburg.

"In fact, Fred McNair was one of the first ones to come by last night," Smith said of the older brother of current Ravens quarterback Steve McNair.

Lyon is survived by his wife, Sheila.

He had served as an assistant coach at Gulf Coast Community College and Pearl River for 10 years and with the Mississippi Fire Dogs for four years in addition to various high school stints.

Funeral services were incomplete at press time.

Jan. 16, 2008

MEVF-119

Roger C. Burkes

Graveside Services for Mr. Roger C. Burkes will be held Thursday January 17, 2008 at 3:30 P.M. at Newton County Memorial Gardens with Reverend Riley Burton officiating. Burial will be in Newton County Memorial Gardens with Newton County Funeral Home of Newton, MS in charge of Arrangements.

Mr. Burkes Age 69 of Decatur died Sunday January 13, 2008 at Laird Hospital in Union, MS.

He was a retired school teacher for East Central Community College. He was in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War.

Organization/church membership & Back Ground: Decatur Methodist Church, Newton County

Union Appeal 1-16-08

Retired Education Personnel; DUNC; Greater Decatur Chamber of Commerce; NRA; Newton County Historical & Genealogical Society; Theta Xi Chapter, Phi Theta Kappa (honorary); ECCC Alumni Association; USM Alumni Association. He is a graduate of Harperville High School, East Central Community College, the University of Southern Mississippi, the University of Mississippi and attended Mississippi State University.

Survivors include wife: Ann H. Burkes of Decatur and several cousins.

He is preceded in death by his parents: Margel and Edna Clower Burkes

The family requests memorials be made to the General Scholarship Foundation at ECCC, P.O. Box 129 Decatur, MS 39327.

Gardens with Newton County Funeral Home of Newton in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Burkes was a graduate of Harperville High School, East Central Community College, University of Southern Mississippi, Ole Miss and attended Mississippi State University. He was a retired school teacher for East Central Community College. He served in the United States Army during the Vietnam War.

Mr. Burkes was a member of Decatur Methodist Church. He was also a member of Newton County Retired Education Personnel; DUNC; Greater Decatur Chamber of Commerce; NRA; Newton County Historical and Genealogical Society; Theta Xi Chapter, Phi Theta Kappa (honorary); ECCC Alumni Association and USM Alumni Association.

He was preceded in death by his parents: Margel and Edna Clower Burkes.

Survivors include his wife, Ann H. Burkes of Decatur; and several cousins.

The family requests that memorials be made to the General Scholarship Foundation, ECCC, P.O. Box 129 Decatur, MS 39327.

Roger C. Burkes

DECATUR-Graveside Services for Mr. Roger C. Burkes, 69, who died Sunday, Jan. 13, 2008, at Laird's Hospital in Union, will be held on Thursday, Jan. 17, 2008, at 3:30 p.m. at Newton County Memorial Gardens with the Rev. Riley Burton officiating. Burial will be in Newton County Memorial



Scott County Times (3A)
Jan. 16, 2008

John Buie Kelly, Jr.Brandon *Clarion Ledger*
5/16/08

Mr. John Buie Kelly, Jr., 80, died Tuesday, May 13, 2008, at his residence with his family by his side. After a year long battle with liver cancer, his earthly body gave up the fight and his soul left this body and entered heaven to be with

God for eternity.

Mr. Kelly was born to John Buie Kelly, Sr., and Nettie Clearman Kelly on January 30, 1928 in Morton, MS. He spent his happy childhood years in the Morton / Forest area, sometimes moving to other small towns as work was available to his father who was in the timber business.

He grew up loving all sports and played football, baseball, & basketball, excelling in all. He also loved music, Big Band music, and played drums in his high school band.

During WWII his family moved to Mobile, AL where he and his father worked in the ship-building yard. He then returned to complete his senior year, graduating from Forest High School.

While attending East Central Junior College he played in the Forest Minor League until he signed a contract with the Cleveland Indians and played on their minor league team, the Cordele Indians in Mobile, AL.

Upon moving to Jackson, Mr. Kelly began a long career with the G.M. & O. / I.C.G. railroad where he worked as a switchman for over thirty-eight years.

During this time, especially when his four children were in school, he was still very much involved in sports- helping with their school teams, attending their games, coaching Little League teams and officiating at high school games. He was a charter member of the "Loggin' Hosses" a parents support group at Magnolia High School.

He loved to spend time on Bayou Pierre fishing with his father and grandfather and later, some of his most memorable times were fishing trips with his three sons on Bayou Pierre and in numerous lakes. John was a member of the Bass Anglers Sportsmen Society.

After retirement he enjoyed full-time traveling with his wife in their RV for about fifteen years, providing some wonderful memories. They traveled throughout the lower 48 states, Alaska, Canada, and Mexico, returning often to spend time in the Jackson area with their children and grandchildren. Mr. Kelly was, in his early years, a member of First Presbyterian Church, Forest, MS, and later joined Covenant Christian Church in Jackson, where he served as an elder. For the past three years he has been a member of First Christian Church of Vicksburg, enjoying the warm fellowship of the members and the inspiring messages of the pastor, Rev. Hancill Bankester, a long-time personal friend.

He was preceded in death by his son-in-law, David Pruitt and his first wife and mother of his four children, Nan J. Kelly.

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John is survived by his wife, Dorothy; daughter, Karen Pruitt, Huntington, WV, and three sons, Richard and his wife, Gina, Flowood, MS, David and his wife, Amy, Terry, MS, and Scott and his wife, Tana, Nashville, TN; granddaughters, Erin Mace and her husband, Jason, Hurricane, WV, Christian Kelly, Baton Rouge, LA, and Alex Kelly, Flowood, MS; grandsons, Pat Kelly and his wife, Kristy, Utica, MS, Neill Kelly, Flowood, MS, Nicholas Kelly, Baton Rouge, LA, and Austin and Brandon Kelly, Nashville, TN; also survived by four step-children, Vickie Har-

ter and husband, Cal Leesville, LA, Jim Rober and Cindy Breeland, Jackson, MS, and Steve Roberts and his wife, Kim Terry, MS; step-grandchildren are :Hannah and Madelyn Banks, Terry, MS, Michelle Bailey and husband, Rusty, Leesville, LA, Shawn Rickard and wife, Katerina, Quantico, VA, Teresa Munley and husband, Brad, Leesville, LA and Stephanie, Adrienne and Samantha Roberts, Terry, MS.

He is also survived by four step-great grandchildren, Taylor Harter, Kaitlyn Bailey and Lillie Munley, Leesville, LA, and Andon Rickard, Quantico, VA; as well as his sister, Sarah Albritton, Clinton, MS; and numerous nieces and nephews and other extended family members and a host of friends.

There will be a graveside funeral service in Lakewood Memorial Park South at 11:00 am Saturday with Rev. Ronnie Walters officiating.

Pallbearers will be sons and grandsons- Richard, David, Scott, Pat, and Neill Kelly, and Jason Mace.

Immediately following the service, all friends and relatives are cordially invited to a time for reflecting and visiting and lunch at Covenant Christian Church on Davis Road, Jackson, MS.

The family wishes to thank Dr. Bobby Graham and entire staff at St. Dominic Cancer Clinic, Dr. Dianne ferguson, and especially Camilia Home Hospice Care for their dedicated care and compassion during difficult times.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to First Christian Church, Vicksburg, MS P.O. Box 820763, Vicksburg, MS, 39182

March 12, 08

MRVF-119

Wednesday, March 12, 2008

The News

MRVF-119
ECCC
OBITUARIES**Richard Arlen Berryhill**

Funeral Mass for Richard Arlen Berryhill, 77 of Decatur will be held Thursday, March 13, 2008 at St. Patrick Church in Meridian at 11 a.m. Wake and Rosary is at 9 a.m. preceding the funeral.

Berryhill passed away on Sunday March 9, 2008.

He is survived by his wife of 53 years, Agatha; 6 children, Teresa Malone (and husband Larry) of Hattiesburg, Dolly Longley (and husband Ross) of Bradenton, FL, Toby Berryhill (and wife Linda) of Chattanooga, TN, Laurie Stetelman (and husband Andrew Stetelman) of Hattiesburg; Jennifer Crosby (and husband Mark) of Petel; and Lt. Col Richard Berryhill (and wife Paula) of Union, a sister Bonnie Pratt of Wichita, KS, 16 grandchildren, 3 great-grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Alton and Ada Berryhill, 2 sisters, Rosanna Will and Judith Lewis,



Berryhill

and a niece Rebecca Witt.

Richard was born on April 14, 1930 in Seminole, OK to Alton and Ada

Berryhill. After graduating from Russell High School in Russell, KS in 1948, he attended the University of Kansas until enlisting in the Air Force. He served in the United States Air Force as a radio operator from 1951-1955 and received an honorable discharge. He was wed to his wife Agatha on August 21, 1953. Following his discharge from the Air Force, he completed both his B.S. and M.S. degrees in Geology at the University of Oklahoma. He returned to college in 1995 and completed his course requirements for a M.S. degree in Geography at the University of Southern Mississippi.

Richard spent most of his adult life employed as a petroleum geologist in Louisiana and Missis-

sippi. He lived in Gautier, until 2005 and was employed by Bullard Homes as a Real Estate agent and as an adjunct instructor in Geography at Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College from 1991-2005. He relocated to Decatur following Hurricane Katrina where he was employed as an adjunct instructor in Geography at East Central Community College in Dacatur.

He was a member of St. Mary's Catholic Church in Gautier until relocating to Decatur, where he became a member of St. Patrick Catholic Church in Meridian.

He was a member of the Knights of Columbus No. 1924 in Gautier and was elected Grand Knight for 2004-2005. He transferred his membership to Meridian, KOC No. 802, when he relocated.

Memorial contributions can be made in his name to St. Patrick's Catholic School 2601 Davis St. Meridian, MS 39302.

Visit www.jamesfwebb.com to sign register book.

Newton Record 11/19/2008

ECCC mourns death of two students; Another student injured, remains in hospital

MRVF 119

The ambiance is solemn on the campus of East Central Community College in Decatur in reaction to the recent tragic deaths of two ECCC students, Shareef Dixon and Bradley "B.J." McElroy Jr. Both young men were freshmen career-technology students training for their future careers.

"It is always tragic when lives are lost to accidents and to have two students lost in separate accidents on back-to-back weekends is doubly tragic," Dr. Phil A. Sutphin, president of ECCC said. "We offer our condolences to the families and pray that they find the strength to deal with the sadness and loss of a loved one."

The first of the two tragic deaths of ECCC students occurred on Oct. 31. Dixon, 18, an electrical technology student of Lena, was traveling in a 1995 Crown Victoria west on U.S. Highway 80 passing through the Kalem community between Morton and Forest at approximately 11 p.m. when his vehicle collided head-on with a vehicle traveling east on U.S. 80 when his life came to a tragic end. Dixon was on his way to pick up his cousin and younger brother at the Morton High School field house after the team returned from their game at Decatur with Newton County.

ECCC electrical technology instructor John Everett described Dixon as "a very likable young man."

"Shareef was a good student and was always willing to help," Everett said. "He did good work and was good to volunteer and work with others."

Everett said his class is continuing to cope with the loss of their classmate. He said the care for Dixon was evident the first day of class following Dixon's death.

"I always have a sign-in sheet and one of his classmates wrote, 'R.I.P. we will always love you,' on the sheet and signed Shareef's name," Everett said.

Everett said Dixon's younger brother, a ninth-grader at Morton High School, has expressed plans of attending ECCC following high school graduation.

"Shareef's younger brother is planning to come through my program and carry on his brother's legacy," Everett said he was told by Dixon's mother:

his children, Chriscedez, 2, and Mercades, 4, and his friend, David Allen, 21, also of Morton. Dixon's funeral was held at 1 p.m. on Nov. 6 at Cedar Grove Missionary Baptist Church in Lena.

Dixon was a 2008 graduate of Morton High School. He is the son of Mavis Dixon and Dennis Dixon of Lena.

An early Sunday morning, Nov. 9, accident claimed the life of the second ECCC student, McElroy, 19, a welding and cutting program student from Noxapater, who died instantly, when a Brandon police cruiser, en route to a call, crashed into his vehicle in Brandon.

ECCC welding instructor, Gerald Jordan, said McElroy's classmates are dealing with the grief of their friend as best they can.

Jordan said McElroy was a talented welding student and his prior two years of training at Winston-Louisville Career and Technology Center was apparent in his work.

"He was exceptionally well-behaved and just a good student," Jordan said. "He did his class work and anything we asked of him."

Shane McDaniel, McElroy's high school metal trades instructor said McElroy was a great young man who had a lot of things going for him.

"It is such a tragedy that his life was taken from him at such a young age," McDaniel said. "B.J. left his legacy on life; he lived it to the fullest. He was a respectful young man and I am proud to have called him one of my students."

Authorities said the crash occurred on U.S. 80 at the westbound I-20 exit ramp in Brandon. The crash hospitalized another ECCC student, Ciera Hines, 18, of Morton, who was a passenger in McElroy's vehicle, and a Brandon police officer. Hines remains hospitalized in stable condition.

Funeral services for McElroy were held at 11 a.m. Tuesday, Nov. 11, at Jordan Funeral Home in Kosciusko with burial in the Friendship Cemetery.

He was a 2008 graduate of Noxapater High School in 2008. He is the son of Bradley Alton McElroy Sr. of Louisville and Deneace Hobbs Reel of Noxapater.

The Scott County Times and The Clari-

11-11-08

MRVF-119

ty Living Center. (Southern, 662-653-3164).

Bradley 'B.J.' McElroy Louisville

Bradley Alton "B.J." McElroy, 19, a student at East Central Community



McElroy

College in Decatur, MS, died Sunday, November 9, 2008, in Brandon, MS.

Visitation was Monday, November

10, 2008, from 5:30-9 p.m. at Jordan Funeral Home in Kosciusko, MS. Funeral services are 11:00 a.m. today at Jordan Funeral Home in Kosciusko, MS with burial in the Friendship Cemetery. Jordan Funeral Home in Kosciusko, MS is handling the arrangements. Rev. Doug Wise and Shane McDaniel will officiate the service.

He attended Ethel Baptist Church when he was younger. He graduated from Noxapater High School in 2008. He was

See DEATHS, 5B

Clarion Ledger
11/11/08

also a talented welder.

Survivors include: father, Bradley Alton McElroy, Sr. and wife, Jennifer of Louisville; mother, Deneace Hobbs Reel and husband, Jason Reel of Noxapater; brothers, Dane Reel of Noxapater, Zach Reel of Noxapater, Hunter McElroy of Louisville and Ryals McElroy of Louisville; paternal grandmother, Charlotte McElroy of Ethel; and numerous aunts and uncles.

He was preceded in death by his paternal grandfather, Paul McElroy and maternal grandmother, Syble Townsend.

Memorials may be sent to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

Nov. 9, 2009

MRVF-119

ECCC Mourns Sophomore Whitley Fisher

staff reports

The East Central Community College campus has been in mourning following the tragic death of sophomore Whitley Fisher of Lake.

Fisher was killed in a one-car accident Thursday afternoon on the Decatur-Conehatta road.

Classmates and other friends assembled at ECCC Friday morning to remember the popular student and concert choir member, who was a graduate of Newton County High School.

Counselors from Weems Community Mental Health Center were also available to meet with students coping with Fisher's sudden death.

Fisher's funeral was held Sunday, and Wolf Funeral Home in Morton was in charge of arrangements.



Whitley Fisher

Meridian Star Nov. 9, 2009

10-01-09

2009, one hour prior to the service in Carolyn's Room of First United Methodist Church.

Mr. Sims was born December 16, 1918 in Vernon, AL to the late William Luther and Lillian Cline Sims, Sr. Survivors include his wife, Beth Carley Sims of Columbus, son, John Frank Sims (Tanya) of McLean, VA, daughters, LaBet Sims Pritchard of Asheville, NC, Carley Sims Page (Tommy) of Brandon, MS, and DeMaris Sims of Columbus, brother, William Luther Sims, Jr. (Charlotte) of Rayville, LA, grandchildren, Kate Pritchard, Ivy Pritchard, Barrett Page (Julie), Thomas Page, Sims Page, John Shields Sims, III, Spencer Sims, and Evan Sims, and great grandchildren, Kylie and Jackson Page.

Pallbearers will be his eight grandchildren. Memorials may be made to the Main Street Elevator Fund at First United Methodist Church or the charity of your choice.

John Sims Columbus

90, died Tuesday, September 29, 2009, at home. (Memorial, 662-328-4432).

John "Shields" Sims Columbus

John Franklin "Shields" Sims, age 90, of Columbus, MS died Tuesday, September 29, 2009, at his residence. Funeral services will be Friday, October 2, 2009, at 2:00 PM at First United Methodist Church with Dr. Sam Morris officiating and Memorial Funeral Home directing. The interment will immediately follow at Friendship Cemetery with full military honors.

Visitation will be Thursday, October 1, 2009, from 5:00 - 7:00 PM at Memorial Funeral Home and also Friday, October 2,

Clarion Wedger
10/1/2009

07-15-09

MRVF-119

Walter Arno Vincent

Services for Walter Arno Vincent were held on Monday, July 13th, 2009, at 11 a.m. at Robert Barham Family Funeral Home Chapel with Minister S o n n y Vincent officiating. Burial was in Forest L a w n Cemetery with Robert Barham



Family Funeral Home located 6300 Hwy 39 North, Meridian, MS 39305 in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Vincent, age 93, of Petal, (previously of Meridian) died Thursday, July 9, 2009 at his residence.

Mr. Vincent was born in Martin, in 1916. He served honorably as Lieutenant Commander in the U.S. Navy during World War II. Arno obtained as Associates Degree from ECCC, a Bachelor's Degree from the University of Southern Mississippi, and a Masters from the University of Mississippi. He played basketball and football throughout his collegiate career.

Arno began his career of thirty-one years in education as a teacher at Pass Christian. Later he became a teacher, then coach, Dean of Men, and ultimately served as President of East Central Community College. Subsequently, Arno accepted the position of President of the Mississippi Education Association and then later as Assistant Superintendent of the Meridian Public School System in the years prior to his retirement.

Ruth Carr Vincent scholarship fund, which may be submitted to the following address: USM Foundation, 118 College Drive, Box 10026, Hattiesburg, MS 39406.

Survivors include his wife Winifred McElhaney; sister, Lorhee Hand; children, Pamela Fowlkes and husband Robbie of New Orleans, LA, and Daphne Lancaster and husband Glenn of Meridian, MS; step-children, Jonee McElhaney, Linda Balch and husband Gary, Sandra McElhaney, David McElhaney and wife Kathy; grandchildren, Bruce Warner and his wife Alesa, Chrissy Warner Thomas, Natalie Miller Land, Lauren Miller, David Miller; great grandchildren, J.T. Thomas, Joshua Mitchell Thomas, Jackson Warner, Reagan Warner, and Garrison Land; many step grandchildren; step great grandchildren; and various nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Ruth Carr Vincent; sister, Lucille Vincent Hatcher; brothers, Omar known as "Hot" Vincent, Claude Melbourne Vincent; and parents, Sarah and Walter Vincent.

Pallbearers were David Miller, Philip Maples, Doug Deweese, Gary Balch, Dylan Maples and Matthew Deweese.

Honorary pallbearers were David McElhaney, Steve Bush, Wayne Wahrendorff, Dwight Hand, Lester Edds Hatcher, Brandon Webb, Ryan Bush and John David McElhaney III.

Visitation was Sunday 5-7 at the funeral home and one hour prior to the service.

Mr. Vincent was a long standing and devoted member of Poplar Springs Drive United Methodist Church in Meridian, MS. Arno was also an avid sportsman, gardener, and hunter. Mr. Vincent was active in his community including involvement in The Boy Scouts of America, Lions Club, various alumni associations, and athletic foundations. Throughout his successful career and remarkable life, many honors and awards were bestowed upon Arno by different athletic, civic, and political organizations as was as educational institutions.

Mr. Vincent was passionate about mentoring, nurturing, and supporting young people in their pursuit of higher education. Therefore, the family respectfully requests in lieu of flowers contributions be made to the East Central Community College Arno and Ruth Carr Vincent scholarship fund, which may be submitted to the following address: ECCC Foundation, P.O. Box 129, Decatur, MS, 39327, or the University of Southern Mississippi Arno and/or

ECCC

Union Appeal - 7/15/09 MRVF-119

VF MEM RM Vincent, Arno 1916-2009

10-21-09 MRVF-119

Bertis Thames, Sr.

 Services for Bertis Thames, Sr. were held at 12 noon, September 26, 2009 at Midway M.B. Church. Pastor Charles Watson officiated with burial in the Church Cemetery. Beck Funeral Home of Philadelphia was in charge.

Bertis Thames, Sr., age 84, died Monday, September 21, 2009 at Alliance Laird Hospital, in Union. Mr. Thames

Newton Record
10-21-09

served in the U.S. Navy from 1943-1945. He received advanced training in Newport, R.I. and was awarded the Battle Star. He also worked as a mechanic at a paper mill for many years.

He joined in Holy Matrimony to the late Winnie Lou Jordan Thames on May 2, 1942, and to this union eleven children (seven girls and four boys) were born. Fourteen sisters and brothers and one son-in-law, James C. Cleveland preceded him in death.

He leaves to cherish his memory seven daughters: Mattie (Charles) Seals, Ella (late James) Cleveland, Francis Needham of Jackson, Beatrice Thames, Mae (Bobby) Gibson, Barbara (Algie) Mapp, and Marcia (Alonzo) Ford; four sons: Bertis (Delois) Thames, Jr., James (Mattie) Thames, Michael (Barbara) Thames, and Kerby (Vergie) Thames, all of Newton County. He leaves one sister, Elma Walk of Union, two sisters-in-law: Georgia Ruth Thames of Union and Fannie Thames of Sebastopol. He also leaves to cherish his memory, a host of grandchildren, great-grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.

Pallbearers were Charles Seals, Sr., John Charles Seals, Stacey Cleveland, David Thames, Terry Thames, Cedrick Thames, Shawn Thames, Wayne Thames, Roderick Seals.

Beck Funeral Home of Philadelphia was in charge of arrangements.

Sept. 15, 2009

MRVF-119

11

past pr...
son Audubon Society. He was a former member of the board of directors for the South Jackson Boys Club. While living in Decatur he worked as a Boy Scout organizational representative. He also served on the Keep Jackson Beautiful Committee.

His strong Christian beliefs played an important part of his life. He loved God and he loved his fellow man. He joined the Salem Baptist Church in Ekron, Kentucky as a youth. While at Decatur, MS, he served as a deacon, choir member, Sunday School Teacher and Sunday School Superintendent at Clarke Venable Baptist Church. He also worked as General Associational Sunday School Superintendent in Newton County. He joined Hillcrest Baptist Church in 1959. At Hillcrest he served as a Sunday School Teacher, Sunday School Superintendent and choir member. In 2001 he joined Griffith Memorial Baptist Church where he was a faithful member until his death. Many will remember his playing hymns on the harmonica during morning worship service on senior day.

On September 25, 1937 he married Mary Lee Holmes from Butler, Kentucky. She was his loving companion for approximately 72 years. She shared his love of science and education.

Robert C. Roberts was preceded in death by his parents William Earnest and Alice Neafus Roberts as well as by his brother, William Alton Roberts.

He is survived by his wife, Mary Lee Roberts; his son, Dr. Robert Holmes Roberts (wife, Vikki) of Germantown, TN and daughter, Dr. Anne A. Roberts (husband, Dr. Glenn Herrington) of Jack-

son, MS. He left four grandchildren, David Roberts of Washington, DC, Dan Roberts of Germantown, TN, Laura Herrington Jarrett (husband, Alan) of Jackson, MS, and Charles Herrington of Jackson, MS.

Robert C. Roberts will be remembered by his family and friends as a man of integrity, a man of great energy and a sense of duty, a man who loved his family dearly, a man with strong Christian beliefs, a man gifted with musical ability and a man who marveled at the world of science and nature and promoted conservation and preservation policies for the benefit of future generations.

On line guest book at www.chancellorfuneralhome.com.

Mr. Roberts was very active in the Mississippi Academy of Science. He served in various positions or committees for 13 years including District Science Fair Chairman in 1956, State Science Fair Chairman in 1957 and President of the Mississippi Academy of Science in 1958. He served as State Membership Chairman of the national Science Teachers Association for several years and as a member and board of Directors of the Mississippi Science Teachers Association.

Service to the community was important to him. He was a member of the Leavell Woods Exchange Club for over 40 years. He

Robert C. Roberts Jackson

R.C. Roberts, age 100, died at his home Monday, September 14, 2009.

Visitation will be at Chancellor Funeral Home today from 5-7 pm. Funeral services will be at Griffith Memorial Baptist Church at 1 pm Wednesday, September 16, 2009. Graveside services will be at Ekron, KY.

Robert Clinton Roberts was born March 11, 1909 in Guston, Kentucky the child of William Ernest Roberts and Alice Mae Neafus Roberts. He began school at Bald Knob Rural School and graduated valedictorian of Ekron High School in 1926. He did undergraduate work at Western Kentucky Teachers College in Bowling Green, KY and Peabody College in Nashville, TN. He received a BS from Western Kentucky State College in 1934. He completed his M.A. degree from Peabody College in 1941.

He began his teaching career in Meade County, Kentucky. In Kentucky he taught at Guston, Payneville, Wolfe Creek, Brandonburg, Sonora and Ekron. He was a teacher and coach at Brandonburg the year before becoming principal and basketball coach at Ekron High School where he worked from 1936 to 1941.

In Mississippi he served as a math and science teacher at Tippah Union and Pinedale from 1930-1933. World War II began

The Clarion Ledger, Tuesday

Robert Fick was a musical legend

Newton County and the East Central Mississippi area lost an outstanding educator, citizen, and musician in the death of Robert G. Fick of Decatur who passed away on July 26. Robert Fick joined the faculty of East Central Junior College as head of the music department in 1951 and served in that capacity until his retirement in 1978. On July 26, Bob Fick, the son of Leonard H. and Nettie Harper Fick, passed away at Anderson's Hospital in Meridian. He was seventy-seven.

In 1951, when Dr. L.O. Todd, the President of East Central, was searching for an instructor to head the East Central Music Department, he interviewed a young man who had been reared in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and who had been teaching in Illinois. Based on the young man's educator, experience and interview, Dr. Todd employed Bob Fick.

In addition to a Master of Music Degree from George Peabody College, Bob held a BA from Eastern Illinois Teachers College and a Master of Music Education also from Peabody College. He had taught for several years at Grayville High School in Grayville, Illinois, where he directed an outstanding high school band and acted as conductor of a large high school choir. During World War II, he served with a Special Services Company in the Phillipine Islands and in Japan.

When Bob accepted the position in music at East Central, Dr. Todd instructed him to begin immediately to build an active and contributing music program and depart-

ment. Bob first turned his attention to the marching band. In the early fifties, there were not a great number of high school bands in the five counties which support East Central, and it was difficult to field a complete college band. Bob was determined to have a band of creditable size to perform in parades in the area and to provide halftime entertainment at East Central's football games.

In order to increase the number of players, Bob arranged with the Union High School Band Director, Mrs. Ollie Williams, to permit several players to practice on Wednesday and then perform on weekends with the East Central band. Dr. Shelby Harris and Milton "Bud" Matthews are two of the students from the Union band who also performed with the East Central band.

Bob Fick organized a dance band to play for college dances and to present concerts when it was not feasible to transport the entire college band. He also organized the Madrigal Singers, a vocal group who sang medieval madrigals and folk songs. Under Bob's direction, the choir grew to become one of the largest junior college choirs in Mississippi. In 1957, the choir was invited by the National Music Educators Conference to sing at their conference meeting in Miami, Florida. This was the first time a junior college choir had been invited to perform at a national meeting of the conference.

Under Bob Fick's supervision, juried examinations were instituted

for all those students who were vocal or instrumental majors. Juried examinations are usually required only for senior college students.

Twenty-two years ago, Bob Fick and drama director Bruce Peterson decided to combine the talents of the speech and music departments and present a Broadway musical each year. This has been a continuing activity each spring and in 1977 the musical THE SOUND OF MUSIC was dedicated to Bob Fick.

For many years, Bob directed a community chorus. This group of singers presented Handel's MESSIAH in Huff Auditorium for several years during the Christmas season.

Bob held membership in the Music Educators National Conference and served as President of the Mississippi Music Educators Conference. He was also a member of the Mississippi Association of Educators.

After his retirement in 1977, Bob remained active in music circles. He sang with the Meridian Community Chorus and conducted the chancel choir at the Decatur United Methodist Church for a number of years.

He is survived by his wife Gerry who is also an accomplished musician and by his son Leonard who resides in Jackson. Services were held on Saturday afternoon, July 28, at the Decatur United Methodist Church with the Reverends Selby Alsworth and Norman Holliday officiating. Pallbearers were: Dr. Shelby Harris, Dr. Brad Tucker, Arno Vinc, Jack Edwards,

Thomas Carson, and Bobby Addy.

Robert G. Fick provided the town of Decatur and the surrounding area with music for almost forty years. He will be greatly missed in music circles throughout the state, and he will be long remembered in the hearts of all those students across the United States whose lives he touched and whose talents he helped to develop.



Robert G. Fick

Wednesday,
August 1, 1990

The Second Time Around

The Union Appeal
June 12, 2002 Section B Page 1

RVF-119
ECC6

Dr. Shelby Harris: *Paying It Forward*

A motion picture titled "*Paying It Forward*" recently attracted a great deal of attention. The movie was centered around the idea of what the world would be like if people spent their lives doing for others with no expectation of getting something in return. Dr. Shelby Harris, who taught mathematics at East Central Community College for many years and who passed away on May 14, 2002, was such a person.

Shelby was constantly assisting others because he took great joy in helping his neighbors, colleagues, friends, and family. He was the most unselfish person I ever knew. About a month ago, my wife and I had lunch with Shelby and his mother. Afterward, he showed us his new "apartment" which he had added to his mother's house. My wife Carol admired a crystal globe in the cabinet. The next day, he brought it to Decatur and gave it to her.

In Shelby Harris's early life, he experienced great physical pain, and at the same time his life was filled with joy and expectation. Few people know that when Shelby was born his feet turned inward; and from the time he was quite small until he completed the seventh grade, he underwent a long series of operations and wore braces to correct this problem. Although he never complained, there were times throughout his life when he found it difficult to stand

his lifelong friend Bud Matthews stayed up all night before the weddings making altar arrangements, table arrangements and about 20 corsages and boutonnieres.

If the truth be known, Shelby Harris had arranged enough flowers for the weddings of friends, relatives and yes even strangers to weave a rope of flowers that would stretch around the world.

His work with Phi Theta Kappa, the international community/junior college honor society, spanned more than fifteen years. He was a recognized leader not only in the East Central chapter but also on the national and international level. The Phi Theta Kappa room in the East Central library is filled with plaques and trophies won by the chapter while he acted as sponsor.

The continuing generosity he extended to students is well known. If a student qualified for membership in the honor society, Dr. Harris often provided the membership fee. He had in his possession a box filled with letters of appreciation that students had written to him over the years.

The door to his office was always open, and students knew he would assist them if they were having difficulty in mathematics courses.

For many years, Dr. Harris sponsored the engineering club on the campus. There



by
**Ovid
Vickers**

for any period of time.

Shelby was devoted to his mother and father and to his two sisters Helen and Sandra. He often related how Helen who was the oldest would carry him around on her back during those years when he was wearing braces which made it impossible for him to walk.

The physical problems he experienced early in life seemed to have given Shelby a determination to succeed. Shelby entered school in Union and was not only a good student but was active in school functions and activities. He excelled in mathematics for his teacher Dixie Adkins and quickly learned to play drums in Peggy Williams' band.

While he was in high school, he played with the East Central Junior College band because the college did not have the number of musicians to field a marching band. When he enrolled in college, he continued to play in the East Central band, and when he transferred to the University of Southern Mississippi, he played drums with the university band.

I knew Shelby from the time he entered East Central in 1956, and I was well aware of the fact that he was constantly doing things for other people. Last year when I was invited to speak to the Dodge County, Georgia Historical Society, my wife had a prior commitment and I needed someone to drive me to South Georgia. One evening when Shelby stopped by our house, I happened to mention my predicament, and he immediately said, "Don't worry. I will just get everything in order and take two days off and drive you to Georgia."

When my two daughters, Harriet and Nona, married, they asked Shelby to decorate for their weddings and receptions. Shelby selected the flowers, and along with

are engineers all over the South who took their beginning courses with him at East Central. His work with students and his guidance of those majoring in Engineering and mathematics was well known among professors in the engineering schools of the state's various universities.

For eighteen years, Dr. Harris organized tours to Europe and to Australia. Hundreds of people from across the state have traveled to such far away places as Sidney, Australia; Moscow, Russia; Madrid, Spain; and Amsterdam, Holland with Shelby Harris as director of the tour.

When touring with a group, he always did more than could be expected of a tour guide. He spent a great deal of his time carrying bags for women in the group, and he was always certain that each person was seated and had been served before he would enjoy a meal. Knowing that travelers might on some occasion run short of money, Shelby always carried extra money just in case someone needed extra cash.

At Christmas time on North Fifth Avenue in Decatur, Shelby was jokingly called "the Christmas tree police." He wanted everyone to have outside lights and went from door to door assisting people in getting their lights arranged for the season. He was a great believer in "community," and about once a year he helped organize a street party so that people on the street would maintain that sense of community.

One of the great tenets of Christianity is that an individual should think of others before he thinks of himself. Shelby Harris epitomized this standard. If ever a person lived up to the principle expressed in "Paying It Forward" by putting others first, it was Shelby Harris.



Dr. Shelby Harris: Paying it Forward

By: Ovid Vickers

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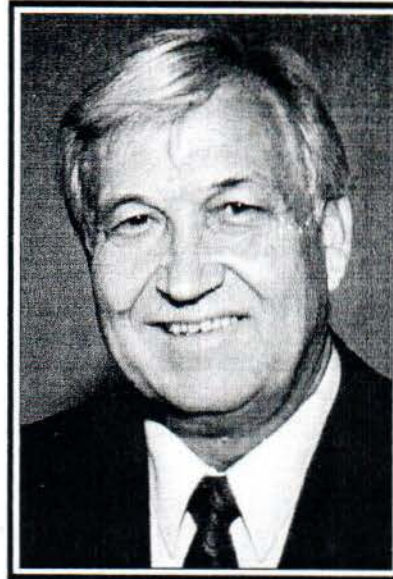
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Dr. Shelby Harris

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Median Star **OBITUARIES**

Sun. 8/17/03
Jeffrey Glenn Hitt

UNION — Services for Jeffrey Glenn Hitt will be held Monday at 2 p.m. at Hickory Baptist Church with the Revs. Rodney Anderson, Paul Swindle, Ed Dickerson, Wayne Dickerson, Paul Oglesbee and Rick Benson officiating. Burial will be in Hudson Chapel Church of God Cemetery with Milling Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Hitt died Friday, Aug. 15, 2003, at Jeff Anderson Regional Medical Center. He previously served as associate minister of Union Church of Christ and presently worked as the work-based learning coordinator at East Central Community College in Decatur.

Mr. Hitt was the treasurer of the ECCC Administration, Faculty and Staff Association, and a member of the Mississippi Faculty Association for Community and Junior Colleges. He also was a co-sponsor of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes at ECCC and was an active member of Newton County Ole Miss Alumni Association and ECCC Alumni Association. He also was currently working as the sports announcer for the Newton County Academy Generals.

Survivors include his wife, Linda Faye Henley Hitt, his daughter, Gillian Henley Hitt, his parents, Bobby and Geraldine Hitt, his sister, Alethia Gail Hitt, his maternal grandmother, Eunice Dickerson, all of Union; his paternal grandmother, Effie Mae Mitchum of Cumming, Ga.; and a mother-in-law, Faye Chesney Henley of Hickory.

He was preceded in death by his sister, Kathy Lynn Hitt.

Pallbearers will be Clay Barnett, Billy McCune, Dale Pattillo, Roger Whitlock, Ronnie Westbrook, Scotty Russell, Chris Clark and Britt Harris. Honorary pallbearers will be members of the ECCC Alumni Association and Newton County Ole Miss Alumni Association.

Visitation will be today from 4 p.m.-9 p.m. at the funeral home.

OUR RECOLLECTION OF JEFF

We can not recall the exact time when we met Jeff, but we developed an immediate rapport with him. We do recall, however, Jeff was a freshman looking for research to support his class assignment. For Jeff, our experience was more than just finding the appropriate research to support a research query; it was the beginning of getting to know a very special young man. We later were blessed with the opportunity to reacquaint ourselves with Jeff as a co-worker. Needless to say, the Jeff that we met as a freshman with a head full of hair had only blossomed even more into a fine Christian young man, husband, father and friend.

As a student at East Central, Jeff was a frequent library user; he used the library for study and to conduct research or just read his favorite magazine or newspaper. Just as important, Jeff came to the library to visit with the staff (Mrs. Ann Burkes, Mrs. Gail Wood and Ms. Gloria Johnson) to see how we were, to discuss the issues of the day or whatever crossed his mind. We (the staff) recall that whatever issue that Jeff discussed, it was done in a very diplomatic, positive manner. Jeff's relationship with the library staff did not end when he graduated from East Central; he often returned to the library just to visit with the staff and to inquire as to how things were with each staff member.

Jeff was also concerned about his fellow classmates and the protection of the earth. Jeff's record at EC shows that he was involved in a number of activities, in addition to his class work. However, he was instrumental in starting an environmental club, which carried the acronym L.I.F.E. or Leaders Investing in the Future of the Environment. Jeff was the first President (1990 / 91) of L.I.F.E. It is

ECCE

befitting that Jeff would be apart of a club that promotes the protection and conservation of the earth. Minutes and other records of L.I. F. E. are available in archives at Burton Library.

Jeff as a coworker was the continuation of the young man we had already gotten to know. The change that we noticed about Jeff is that he had become more for Christ, husband and father. We got to know his wife and daughter even before we met them personally; and of course, one had to only talk with Jeff for a few seconds to know that he loved the Lord. In recalling the last book that Jeff checked out from the Library, ALL OVER BUT THE SHOUTIN' by Rick Braggs, by some measure maybe ironic; however, we see it as Divine. . .

Gail Wood and Gloria Johnson

Brace Keen, Denver

MR VF MEM RM

Stephens Funeral Home

ORDER OF SERVICE

GREETINGS - REV. JOHNNY CROSBY

BILLY OWEN - COMMENTS

GOV. RONNY MUSGROVE - COMMENTS

HYMN - MARTHA GRAHAM

PSALM 34 - FRANK KIRTLEY

MESSAGE - REV. HANK WINSTEAD

OVID VICKERS - READING

BENEDICTION - BRO. CROSBY

CONGREGATION WILL SING "BATTLE
HYMN OF REPUBLIC" FOR RECESSIONAL

Order of service for the funeral
of Gen. Denver Brackner
May 31, 2006 Decatur United
Methodist Church

IX

Stop all the clocks, cut off the telephone,
Prevent the dog from barking with a juicy bone,
Silence the pianos and with muffled drum
Bring out the coffin, let the mourners come.

Let aeroplanes circle moaning overhead
Scribbling on the sky the message He Is Dead,
Put crêpe bows round the white necks of the public doves,
Let the traffic policemen wear black cotton gloves.

He was my North, my South, my East and West,
My working week and my Sunday rest,
My noon, my midnight, my talk, my song;
I thought that love would last for ever: I was wrong.

The stars are not wanted now: put out every one;
Pack up the moon and dismantle the sun;
Pour away the ocean and sweep up the wood;
For nothing now can ever come to any good.

? 16

Poem by W. H. Auden and read
at the funeral of Gen. Denver
Bracker, May 31, 2006

ECCC Family Mourns Ron Davis

Less than month after he announced retirement plans to concentrate on his health, East Central Community College faculty member Ron Davis of Decatur lost his two-year battle with cancer on Friday, April 21, at Jeff Anderson Regional Medical Center in Meridian.

Services for Davis, 50, were held at 2:30 p.m. Sunday, April 23 at James F. Webb Funeral Home in Newton. Burial was in the Decatur cemetery.

Davis, who taught 19 years at ECCC and provided 10 years service in the Meridian Public School System, was diagnosed with metastatic colon cancer in May 2004. The cancer also spread to his liver.

In an article published prior to his death, Davis reflected on his 29 years service as a classroom instructor. When asked to provide a "highlight" of his teaching career, Davis responded with just two words, "my students," and provided the following quote:

"Students at this age level are ready to learn and they are interested in learning. They are also interested in understanding the material and are serious about their work. This is a great age group to teach. I feel very fortunate to have been able to meet, teach and work with the caliber of people we have at East Central."

In continuing the praise of his students, Davis stated: "My students continue to be very responsible and considerate people. That's one of the important things I enjoy about EC students – they are good people. If they have a

problem, they don't mind asking for help, and I enjoy helping them. But lately my students have done more to help me since I've been sick. They have really been amazing," he stated.

Davis was also "amazing" to his students, as indicated by comments such as those provided below.

From Tavares Walker, a freshman pre-vet major from Morton:

"To me, Mr. Davis was a remarkable teacher. He would go out of his way to help students with problems, whether they asked for help or not. He could tell if a student did not understand something and would gladly take time to help that person. He was just an all-around great guy and would speak to students even if they were not in his class. He would go out of his way to be positive about students, and that is what he seemed to enjoy the most about being at East Central – helping students and helping them succeed in class."

Added Teresa Jenkins, a sophomore pre-med major from Louisville: "Mr. Davis always had time for everyone, not just his students. I'm sure he touched the hearts of everyone he met. He will not be forgotten."

And Justin Harrell, a freshman pre-med major from Carthage, made the following comment: "Mr. Davis always had time to help his students, and would put off what he was doing to answer questions to the best of his knowledge."

Davis' service to students went beyond the classroom, as the Science Division Chairman also served as sponsor for Sigma Sigma Mu Tau, an organization for medical students.

As club sponsor, Davis helped provide students with first-hand knowledge about the medical field by taking them on field trips to area hospitals and medical centers. He also assisted students by preparing them for admission to the various medical schools.

Davis also found time to serve the College as legislative representative to the Mississippi Faculty Association for Community and Junior Colleges for many years. He was also a member of the Mississippi Association of Biology Teachers, the Mississippi Academy of Science and the ECCC Administration, Faculty and Staff Association.

But it was his success as a teacher and the concern for his students that stands out most about Davis, who received various honors in recognition of that success.

He was selected ECCC's Academic Instructor of the Year in 1992; was named a Lamplighter (an annual program which recognizes the state's outstanding community and junior college instructors) in 1994; was chosen the College's HEADWAE (Higher Education Day: Working Toward Academic Excellence) Instructor of the Year in 1994; and was awarded a medallion for excellence in teaching by the National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development at the University of Texas in 1995.

Ironically, Davis remarked he never really thought about teaching as a career while in high school or college, even though he majored in biology.

“When I received my bachelor’s degree in biology from the University of Southern Mississippi in 1977, Dr. (Clyde) Muse (who was then Superintendent of Schools in Meridian) offered me a teaching position in the Meridian Public School System. I needed a job, so off I went,” he said.

Davis taught biology at Northwest Junior High and served as science department chairman. He also received “Teacher of the Year” honors.

He joined the ECCC faculty in 1987, where his classroom duties included teaching general biology, anatomy and physiology, and zoology. He was named department chairman in 1997.

Davis, who also held a master’s degree in education with emphasis in science from Mississippi State University and completed additional coursework from MSU and USM, recalled his first day at EC:

“It was scary...but half-way through the day I realized this was the place for me. I really enjoyed my first day and every day since. I really enjoyed teaching here!”

Although he endured a year-and-a-half of chemotherapy treatments at the Anderson Cancer Clinic in Meridian, Davis remarkably missed only a few days of work. And when he was unable to meet his class or had to cut his lectures short, his fellow science department instructors – Peggy Clayton, Dr. Talmage Graham, Kim Hardy, Joe Johnson, Sharon LeJeune, Billy Miles and Davis’ wife, Patti, - made sure Ron’s students continued to receive the education and attention he always provided them.

Johnson made the following comment about his late friend and colleague:

"Ron was the easiest person to work with in all my years of teaching. He was down to earth when it came to teaching and he really loved his students. Ron always put students first and tried to teach them in a way that they could understand. He will be remembered fondly by literally thousands of people who he affected in his years in the classroom."

A resolution honoring Davis for his service to education was adopted by the College's Board of Trustees at its April meeting. The document, signed by Board Chairman Prentice Copeland of Philadelphia and ECCC President Dr. Phil A. Sutphin, commended Davis "for his excellent leadership, scholarship and service over a 19-year period and gratefully acknowledges his many contributions to the institution."

Davis was to be recognized with other retirees at the annual end-of-the-year faculty luncheon scheduled May 12.

In addition to his wife, Patti, survivors include son, Matt, a graduate student at Mississippi State University; parents, Aaron C. and Ruby Weir Davis of Decatur; two sisters, Mrs. Jim (Denise) Farmer and Denita Smylie, and one brother, Roger Davis, all of Decatur; and several nieces and nephews.

Pallbearers were Jere Jefcoat, Matt Davis, Allen Davis, Pete Heath Smylie, Jamey Farmer and Justin Farmer.

The family requests memorials be made to one's favorite charity.

Be it known that the Board of Trustees of East Central Community College in desiring to express appreciation to Mr. Ron Davis makes the following resolution:

RESOLUTION

- WHEREAS** Mr. Aaron Ron Davis is retiring from full-time employment with East Central Community College effective May 12, 2006; and
- WHEREAS** Mr. Aaron Ron Davis earned the Associate in Science Degree at East Central Junior College, the Bachelor of Science Degree in Biology at the University of Southern Mississippi, and the Master of Education Degree in Science from Mississippi State University and completed additional graduate work at Mississippi State University and the University of Southern Mississippi; and
- WHEREAS** Mr. Aaron Ron Davis has teaching experience at Magnolia Middle School, Carver Middle School, and Northwest Junior High School in Meridian, Mississippi; and
- WHEREAS** Mr. Aaron Ron Davis has taught General Biology, Zoology, and Human Anatomy & Physiology at East Central Community College since 1987, and has served as the chairman of the science division since 1997; and
- WHEREAS** Mr. Aaron Ron Davis has distinguished himself as an outstanding instructor with the thousands of students who were enrolled in his courses, as a valuable resource person, especially for those majoring in a medically-related or biologically-related field, as sponsor of Sigma Sigma Mu Tau, the medical club, as a tremendous leader as division chairperson of the science division, as a valuable mentor and colleague for members of his division and the College as a whole, and has set an example at East Central with his enthusiastic teaching and his unfailing positive attitude towards the students he always strived to help; and
- WHEREAS** Mr. Aaron Ron Davis has actively participated in numerous faculty committee assignments during his tenure at East Central Community College;
- WHEREAS** Mr. Aaron Ron Davis was selected as the East Central Community College Academic Instructor of the Year in 1992, participated in the Lamplighters Conference that recognizes outstanding college instructors in 1993, was named East Central Community College's HEADWAE Instructor for 1994, and was awarded a medallion for excellence in teaching by the National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development at the University of Texas in 1995, and;
- WHEREAS** Mr. Aaron Ron Davis holds membership in the Mississippi Association of Biology Teachers, the Mississippi Academy of Science, the East Central Community College Administration, Faculty, and Staff Association, and the Mississippi Faculty Association for Community and Junior Colleges, for which he served as Legislative Representative; and
- WHEREAS** Mr. Aaron Ron Davis has brought honor to himself and to East Central Community College through his extensive involvement and leadership in professional organizations and societies within the area, state, and region; and
- WHEREAS** Mr. Aaron Ron Davis has seen success in that many of his students have gone on to excel in their fields of study; and
- WHEREAS** Mr. Aaron Ron Davis has freely shared his vast knowledge of anatomy and physiology, zoology, biology, and computers with other faculty members; and
- WHEREAS** Mr. Aaron Ron Davis will be missed by both students and faculty as a full-time employee at East Central Community College;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Trustees of East Central Community College expresses its appreciation to Mr. Aaron Ron Davis for his excellent leadership, scholarship and service over a nineteen-year period and gratefully acknowledges his many contributions to this institution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a copy of this resolution be spread upon the minutes of the Board of Trustees and that a copy be given to Mr. Aaron Ron Davis.

ADOPTED THIS THE 11TH DAY OF APRIL 2006.

bjohnston

From: jjohnson [jjohnson@eccc.edu]
Sent: Tuesday, April 25, 2006 6:56 AM
To: bjohnston@eccc.edu
Subject: Ron Davis

Ron was the easiest person to work with in all of my years of teaching. He was down to earth when it came to teaching and

really loved his students. Ron always put the students 1st and tried to teach them in a way that they could understand.

He will be remembered fondly by literally thousands of people who he affected in his years in the classroom.

Joe Johnson
Biology Faculty

(Note: Ron Davis lost his battle with cancer on Friday, April 21. Funeral arrangements are incomplete at this time)

Davis to Retire Following 29 Years Service

East Central Community College biology instructor Ron Davis of Decatur has decided to retire following two years of battling cancer.

Davis, who has taught 19 years at East Central following 10 years in the Meridian Public School system, said the decision to retire was not an easy one, but was largely determined by health factors.



"I really love teaching at East Central, but I feel that I may not be able to carry out the duties of my job at the level that I want to. Also, it has been indicated that I need less exertion and to concentrate more on my health," said Davis, who was diagnosed with metastatic colon cancer in May 2004.

Although he had no symptoms, the cancer had also spread to his liver.

Davis noted that the year-and-a-half of chemotherapy treatments he had taken at the Anderson Cancer Clinic in Meridian "have been rather successful."

"The initial treatments went better than I thought they would," Davis commented. "However, I have had some setbacks recently and I just need to overcome them."

In reflecting on his 29 years as a classroom instructor, Davis said the highlight has been the "students" who have come his way at East Central.

"Students at this age level are ready to learn and they are interested in learning. They are also interested in understanding the material and are serious about their work. This is a great age group to teach. I feel very fortunate to have been able to meet, teach, and work with the caliber of people we have at East

Central," Davis stated.

Davis continued praising his students with the following comment:

"My students continue to be very responsible and considerate people.

That's one of the important things I enjoy about EC students – they are good people. If they have a problem, they don't mind asking for help, and I enjoy helping them. But lately my students have done more to help me since I've been sick. They have really been amazing," Davis stated.

Davis, who has won numerous awards throughout his teaching career, including his selection as ECCC's Academic Instructor of the Year in 1992, Lamplighter in 1994, and HEADWAE (Higher Education Day: Working Toward Academic Excellence) Instructor of the Year in 1994, said he never really thought about teaching as a career while in high school or in college, where he majored in biology.

"When I received my bachelor's degree in biology from the University of Southern Mississippi in 1977, Dr. (Clyde) Muse (who was then Superintendent of Schools at Meridian) offered me a teaching position in the Meridian Public School System. I needed a job, so off I went," he recalled.

Davis taught biology at Northwest Junior High and served as science department chairman. He also received "Teacher of the Year" honors.

He was hired at East Central in 1987 to teach biology, anatomy and physiology, and zoology. Davis, who holds a master's degree in education with emphasis in science from Mississippi State University and has completed additional coursework at MSU and USM, said he well remembers his first day at East Central:

"It was scary ...but half-way through the day I realized this was the place for me. I really enjoyed my first day and every day since! I really enjoy teaching here!"

In addition to his classroom duties, Davis serves as Chairman of the Science Division and has served as sponsor for Sigma Sigma Mu Tau, an organization for medical students.

Davis helps provide students in the organization with first-hand knowledge about the medical field by taking them on field trips to

area hospitals and medical centers. Davis also assists students in preparing them for admission to the various medical schools. Davis also served as legislative representative for the faculty for many years.

Regarding his success at EC, Davis said he has benefited from several "mentors" who provided guidance and other assistance throughout his career. "There have been so many. Dr. Shelby Harris was a real important person to me. I enjoyed working with him as my division chairman and he helped me a lot. Mr. (George) Mason was my cohort when I first came to East Central. He showed me 'the ropes' and taught me a lot.

Mr. (Raymond) McMullan did a great job of 'keeping me straight' and helping with my paper work. These people and others were all very important to me and played a part in helping me become a better student and teacher," Davis said.

When he is not in the classroom, Davis said his main hobby has been tending to his farm where he raises beef cattle. However, since his illness, he spends most of his leisure time reading.

He also spends time with his family, especially his wife, the former Patti Jefcoat of Forkville, whom he met while both attended East Central. Patti is also a member of the College's faculty, having joined the science division in 1994. Both have enjoyed working together at EC.

The Davises have a son, Matt, who is scheduled to receive a master's degree in mechanical engineering from Mississippi State University in December 2006. He received a bachelor's degree in the same subject in 2005. He is also a 2002 ECCC graduate and member of the College's Hall of Fame.

Although Ron Davis is having to cut short a successful teaching career due to his illness, he can take pride in knowing that many students are leading successful careers because of the instruction they received from him at East Central Community College.

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April 23, 2006

Aaron Ronald Davis

Decatur

Aaron Ronald Davis, 50, an instructor at East Central Community College for 19 years, died Friday, April 21, 2006, at Jeff Anderson Regional Medical Center. Services are 2:30 p.m. today at James F. Webb Funeral Home in Newton with burial in Decatur Cemetery in Decatur.

Mr. Davis was a member of Clarke Venable Baptist Church and a member of the Lions Club. He attended Decatur High School, East Central Junior College, University of Southern Mississippi, and Mississippi State University. He taught at Meridian Public School Systems for 10 years before going to ECCC in Decatur.

Survivors include his wife, Patti Jeffcoat Davis of Decatur; one, Aaron Matthew "Matt" Davis of Decatur; parents, Aaron C. and Ruby Weir Davis of Decatur; two sisters, Denise and her husband Jim Farmer of Decatur, and Denita Smylie of Decatur; brother, Roger and his wife Darlene Davis of Decatur; and several nieces and nephews.

Pallbearers will be Jere Jefcoat, Matt Davis, Allen Davis, Pete Heath Smylie, Jamey Farmer, and Justin Farmer.

The family requests memorials be made to your favorite charity.

Obituary advertising policy

The Clarion-Ledger publishes basic obituaries free of charge. The basic obituary includes identifying information about the deceased and service information. Additional information, such as survivors and activities, may be included for a charge. A typical obituary of 25 lines, including survivors and hobbies and possibly a photo, would cost \$75. Additional information will cost \$5.00 per line. Obituaries and pictures must be submitted by a funeral home by 4 p.m. for publication in all editions of the next day's Clarion-Ledger. For additional information, phone (601) 961-7159 or (601) 961-7057.

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/ CLERICAL

March 28, 1910

March 28, 2010



Pauline Germany Matthews

Pauline Germany Matthews
Celebrating 100
March 28, 2010

Age in Years:	100
Age in Months:	1,200
Age in Weeks:	5,200
Age in Days:	36,525
Age in Hours:	871,800
Age in Minutes:	523,080,000
Age in Seconds:	3,138,480,000
Approximate Heartbeats:	3,766,176,000

Pauline Germany Matthews has attained 100 years while living in a state with the lowest average life-expectancy in the nation – 73.6 years. She has lived through the flu pandemic of 1918, the Stock Market Crash of '28, the Great Depression, two world wars, the Korean conflict, the war in Vietnam, the Gulf War, and the current wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. She has seen the passage of women's suffrage, eleven amendments to the United States Constitution, the moon landings, and still keeps up with world events, and, importantly, what's reported in *The Meridian Star*, *The Newton Appeal* and *The Neshoba Democrat*.

Eighteen presidents have served terms of office during her lifetime. On March 28, 1910, William Howard Taft, the 27th President (1909-1913), was in office. Following him, 17 more men have served the country as president and have spent time in the White House. The list includes:

Thomas Woodrow Wilson (1913-1921)
 Warren Gamaliel Harding (1921-1923)
 John Calvin Coolidge (1923-1929)
 Herbert Clark Hoover (1929-1933)
 Franklin Delano Roosevelt (1933-1945)
 Harry S Truman (1945-1953)
 Dwight David Eisenhower (1953-1961)

I guess I've been rushing things ever since.

As soon as Mama was able after I was born, she wrapped me up and carried me, she took Lois by the hand, and walked to church. The church was up on the hill just past the present building. A storm blew that building off the foundation, so a new church was built where this one stands. As I think about it, Bluff Springs Church of God has always been my church. Other than visiting, I've never attended any other church on a regular basis. I sometimes wonder how many other people have attended the same church for 100 years.

I'd venture, not many of us.

When I was a little girl, Mama would braid my hair. Then, after a few days, she would comb out the braids. My older sister, Lois, always said I cried and cried because Mama pulled my hair as she combed. I wonder if I really did. Mama just would not have pulled my hair bad enough to make me cry.

I think Lois must have mis-remembered.

When I was about four years old, I got a bad case of the shingles. The worst patch was on my back and it looked really bad. It hurt so much I could not wear a shirt. Papa was easily turned so Mama had to keep me away from the table when Papa was eating so he wouldn't get sick seeing my badly infected back.

Sometimes I think my stomach is easily turned but it is not from those shingles.

There was a big gully between our house and Grandpa's. When we were little kids, Papa told us the booger-man and trolls lived in that deep gully. We were afraid to go by there in the daytime, let alone at night. At nighttime Papa would tell us scary stories. After the stories, he would offer

us a penny if we ran to Grandpa's and called back on the telephone to prove we were really there.

I knew as soon as any of us left the house running to Grandpa's Papa would go to that gully and scare us as we came back. So I waited a little while until Papa was doing something else and was not watching me. I'd run as fast I could to Grandpa's and call back and run back home as fast I could so Papa would not have time to get to the gully. I always got my penny.

I imagine Papa really knew what I was doing.

We had a community telephone system back then. Papa and his brothers and brother-in-law strung copper telephone lines between all our houses. We had those crank telephones. Mama was the telephone operator and would transfer the calls to the right person. No one kept the tree limbs off the telephone lines so eventually the whole system was lost. We must not have appreciated our telephones enough to keep up the lines. It must have been over fifty years later when BellSouth finally ran telephone lines in that community. Mama was quite pleased to have a telephone again. It takes hindsight to appreciate something after it is gone.

Papa gave me a whipping only one time.

One afternoon Uncle Henry and Aunt Rosa and my cousins, Nicolene and Mildred, came to visit. After supper, Uncle Henry and Aunt Rosa went home and Nicolene and Mildred spent the night with us. The next day, Papa went to the barn to hitch the team to take them home. The three of us were going to ride in the back of the wagon and hang our feet out. Bill heard us talking and ran to the wagon and sat down in the back. He would not get up, so I pushed him out. He began to cry and Papa heard him and asked, 'What is going on out there?' I replied: 'Nothing,' and Bill said: 'Pauline pushed me out of the wagon.' Papa called; 'Pauline, come here.' When I got to the barn, he didn't say anything more. He just gave me a whipping and then went back to hitching the team. I can't remember if the three of us girls got to ride in the back of the wagon. I guess we did.

It took me a long time to get over that, but I did, and I forgave Bill.

When we were big enough, we worked in the field chopping cotton or thinning corn. I think we were paid either a quarter or a half dollar for a day's work. Lois, Nell, and I wore sun bonnets, long sleeve shirts, some of the boys' old trousers, and gloves. We did not want to get sunburned and have tanned faces.

Young girls don't work in the fields anymore. Instead they lay out in the sun with little or near nothing on so they can get a suntan as close to all over as they can decently manage.

You hear it a lot now but it's still true. Times have really changed.

Mama taught Lois, Nell, and me, how to cook. Cooking meant, chopping the wood in small pieces, filling the wood compartment to judge oven temperature. Mama was very patient with us. I think she really enjoyed cooking for her family. I had rather cook than do house work. I enjoy trying new recipes and sharing food with friends.

I guess I take after Mama in that.

I started to school at Tiggleville. The schoolhouse was about a mile down the road from our house. The next school farther down the road by about ten miles was Rocky Ridge. When I was in the eighth grade, the two communities decided to combine the two schools and build a new schoolhouse halfway in between. There are different stories about how the new school got its name. I always heard that after the community leaders built the new school they began thinking of various names for it. In the discussion, someone mentioned that the reason for combining the schools was so that the one larger school would be better than the two smaller ones. That stuck and the school came to be known as "Be Better." Somehow, I've forgotten the other stories about the name.

That's not all I've forgotten but I have enough memories without trying to remember that one.

Once at school I told a girl she was lying. The other kids came home and told Papa what I had said to the girl. Papa had a little talk with me and told me that I must never call anyone a liar or say they were lying. And, further, I was always to watch my words. He told me I had to apologize to the girl the next day at school. I did as I was instructed and apologized.

That lesson has stayed with me and I've been mindful of my words ever since.

When I was eleven, I was baptized. I cannot remember the preacher's name but I do remember that Nickolene and Mildred were baptized at the same time. Probably there were others but I don't remember them either. We were baptized in the Redd Pond across the road from the present church. I'm not sure if that pond is still down in those woods; probably not. In those days, all churches had to use somebody's pond for the baptizing. None of them that I knew of had baptisteries built in, not that that matters.

What really matters is the fact of the baptizing and not where it took place and then living right after you are baptized.

In those days, teachers boarded with families who had children in school. I think they stayed with one family for about two months and then moved to someone else's house. One of the teachers who stayed with us did not last the full time he was supposed to stay. He was told to leave when Papa discovered the window screen in his bedroom was rusting.

Papa was a good detective and had high standards regarding behavioral expectations.

Papa bought his first car, a Model-T Ford, when I was twelve or thirteen. Uncle Henry, Grandpa, and another person, bought T-Models at the same time. The four of them began talking about going to the Gulf Coast to visit relatives. Though he wanted to go, Papa could not. He had eight dairy cows that had to be milked every morning and night. I volunteered to stay at home and do the milking. Papa took my offer and he and Mama and the other kids went on the trip.

I stayed at Grandma's and each morning and night I milked those cows. I strained the milk, ran the separator, and kept the barn clean and the cows fed. Bernice, Mama's youngest sister who was five months younger than me, went with me to our barn when I went to do the milking.

Looking back on it, I think Bernice mostly watched.

Maybe I was about thirteen when I had a pet pig. I took him to the livestock show at The Neshoba County Fair. I was a little disappointed when my pig didn't win. I can't remember what happened to that pig but I am sure of one thing. He didn't end up on the table.

Shortly after Lois married Hugh's brother, Otis, and left home, Jakey came to live with us. Jakey was not quite right. His parents had left him with one of his grandfathers. The grandfather asked Papa if he would take Jakey and try to teach him. Papa agreed.

We all worked in the fields and, of course, Jakey came with us. He was very slow and could not keep up with us as we chopped cotton. We made up a game, called, "Kingdom." The first person to finish chopping to the end of the assigned row won a Kingdom. Jakey never won a Kingdom, though he tried. Since I was faster than my younger sister, Nell, and my brothers, Bill, and Doc, I would get ahead and then switch over to Jakey's row. That would give him a good jump forward, and, finally, Jakey could win a Kingdom. He was ever so excited when he finally won. All of us joined in Jakey's excitement and no one minded that he had had extra help.

When we were growing up, Papa taught us to sing. Papa loved to sing but I can't remember Mama singing all that much. Most every night after supper, we gathered around the piano. Nell played the piano and got me started on the soprano part and when she thought I had it right she switched to alto. (I guess I took after Mama in the singing department.) As I remember, Nell could sing all four parts. Doc sang tenor and Bill sang bass and that rounded out our quartet.

Jakey's job was to hold the lamp. Jakey would get so excited and he would laugh and laugh. In his laughter he doubled over and often let out such a big breath he blew out the lamp. With that, all of us laughed.

We had a good time laughing with Jakey but we never laughed at him.

Papa was a good judge of horses and he taught us how to judge them and care for them. Mama always rode sidesaddle, but Papa taught us girls to ride astride. When I was about fifteen or sixteen, Papa bought a horse named Winnie.

Once, Jeff and I were riding. He was on a red horse and I was riding Winnie. Jeff was Papa's youngest brother and was only a few years older than me. He was more like a cousin than an uncle. Jeff challenged me to race home, about two miles. I accepted the challenge and we were off. Winnie outran his red horse. She was going so fast when we reached the house and turned to the barn I would have fallen off had I not been leaning into the turn. I took great pleasure riding horseback and out running my uncles and male cousins.

Papa was never harsh to us. He was a kind and gentle man and we knew he loved us. We always understood his standards and expectations.

**STORY ABRIDGED
EDITOR'S PEROGATIVE**

I always appreciated Papa's consistency in dealing with us and his grandchildren when they came along.

Be Better School had only eleven grades. To finish high school, we had to go to Dixon for our twelfth grade year. Grace Walton's sister, Deena, was a teacher at the school. She boarded with Mr. and Mrs. Long Jim Watkins. Mr. Watkins was a war veteran and he would tell war stories by the hour. The "Long" part of his name was most likely a nickname. I don't know if he got the name from being tall or being long-winded.

Deena shared her apartment with Grace and me. Hugh's brother, Alva, also went to Dixon. One Friday afternoon, none of our folks had come to get us and the three of us began to challenge each other to walk home. The road home went through Sipsey Swamp. I would not have dared walk through that swamp by myself but with Grace and Alva, I was not afraid.

We got to Grace's house first, and then to Alva's. That left me about two more miles to walk by myself. By then it was nearly dark and I had to walk through the Dollar Hollow, the next to last hollow before I got home. Trees grew close on each side and the branches met over the road. I always dreaded walking that part of the road even in daylight. As darkness fell, it didn't seem to matter to me that I was older than I was when I ran to Grandpa's for a penny when we lived in a different house on a different road. Those trolls and booger-men from that fearsome gully surely had cousins lurking in those trees in the Dollar Hollow.

Scary things in childhood sometimes set up housekeeping in our minds and stay with us.

Shortly after I graduated from high school in the spring, Uncle Robert, Papa's brother, came from Nebraska for a visit. When he and Aunt Nellie were ready to go home, he asked Papa and Uncle Perry if I and my cousin, Bertha, could go back with them. Later that summer, Uncles Jeff and Bruce were coming home from the wheat harvest and we could come back with them. Papa and Uncle Perry agreed and we set off on our first big trip away from home.

Uncle Robert was a good guide and enjoyed showing us places. We went to South Dakota to the Badlands, and Mount Rushmore in the Black Hills.

Work on Mount Rushmore had been started the summer before we were there. The workers had started on George Washington's face but not the work on the other three presidents.

Some of our tours were long and we'd get a little tired. Bertha and I rode in the backseat. Once Bertha fell asleep and Uncle Robert noticed. He said something like, "Sleeping away and not seeing all this beauty."

After that, I dared not go to sleep, no matter how tired I was.

In the fall after we were back from Nebraska, I went to Newton to Clark College. Later, I took classes at East Central Junior College in Decatur. In those days, you could get a teaching certificate after taking only a few college classes. Every school day, Papa would have to drive me to the Vance house on the New Ireland road to catch my ride to Decatur and then come back in the afternoon. Finally, he decided to teach me to drive so he would not have to take me.

I'm not sure if he wanted me to learn to drive or if he got tired of having to leave the field before sundown.

Once I got my teaching certificate, I taught fourth grade at Be Better. For spelling class, I usually had a Spelling Bee. All the students lined up around the classroom. If a student misspelled a word and the next student in line spelled the word correctly, that student advanced. The goal was always to be at the top of the line. I remember one little boy who was not very good at spelling. Somehow, he always got 'P' mixed up with 'T.' One day, his spelling word was 'Ship.' When I called the word, he thought and thought and finally said, 'S.' He studied a bit more and then said, 'H' and slowly followed that letter with 'I.' By then the class was really pulling for him and encouraging him telling him he could spell the word. He thought and thought and thought and finally said, 'T.' Fortunately, my students were well behaved and under control and the laughter died out pretty quickly.

**STORY ABRIDGED
EDITOR'S PEROGATIVE**

Some story details are better left untold for whatever reason known only to the teller of the tale.

When Hugh graduated from high school, he moved to Ravenna, Ohio to live with his Uncle Sim and Aunt Mary. Uncle Sim had told him there were jobs in the automobile tire factories in Akron, a short distance from Ravenna. When the Depression began, he was laid off. He moved to Detroit and found work there. As the Depression progressed, he was laid off from that job so he had to come home.

I was only twelve years old when he left to go to Ohio so he didn't pay much mind to me. By the time he came home in 1932, I had grown up. We were having a revival at the church that summer. He arrived at church in a new car and he and the car were greatly made over by all the other young girls. I went to see what the commotion was and then went on into church. When it came time for church to begin, he came in and sat by me. I think he saw right away I was not the little girl he last saw when he went away to work. He asked Mama and Papa if he could take me home that night. They said it was o.k. and he took me home then and every night of the revival.

After that, the boyfriend I had had was no longer my boyfriend.

**STORY ABRIDGED
EDITOR'S PEROGATIVE**

There are times when you want to cry but you know it's best if you don't – at least not just then.

Hugh and I married on Wednesday, April 26, 1933. I had told Mama I was going to get married that night but I had not told Papa. About noon that day, Papa called to us kids and said we had to go to the bottom field to plant sugar cane. We worked all afternoon but I did not tell Papa I was planning to get married that night. He probably knew it since Mama told Papa everything. Finally, about sundown, Papa said, 'Pauline, take ole Winnie and go to the house.' Hugh was already there waiting for me. I changed clothes and we went to prayer meeting.

After prayer meeting, we went to Uncle Govie and Aunt Liza's house. Uncle Govie was our preacher. Several of the people at church knew we were going to get married so they went with us. Aunt Liza had started a wedding tradition years before. When people got married, she had a special little rug on which the couple stood. Hugh and I stood on the rug as Uncle Govie performed the ceremony.

After our wedding, we drove to Meehan Junction near Meridian where Lois and Otis lived. It was about midnight when we got there. We visited a little while and Lois asked if we were married. I told her "no." Lois thought I was kidding because she knew Mama would never have let me be out that late at night by myself with Hugh.

She really knew I was kidding when Hugh began to grin. Hugh never laughed out loud, but when he was happy, he grinned.

We stayed with Lois and Otis Wednesday and Thursday nights and then went back to our apartment at Hugh's dad's house. In 1933 when we married, the Depression was still on and people could not find jobs other than farming. Hugh had put in a crop and on Monday morning he started to the field. I stood on the porch and watched him leave. When he got to the edge of the yard, I called to him and asked him if he wanted me to go to the field with him. He asked, 'Is that what you want to do?' I told him, 'Yes' and we went to the field together to work.

I think that was when he decided he had gotten a good marriage license.

We lived in the apartment at Mr. Matthews' house from April until October of '33. We then moved to town for Hugh to work for Joe Wilson. Joe had a general store with a little of everything in it from groceries to livestock feed and hardware. The store had a second floor that at one time was a hotel. In '33 all the rooms were used as apartments. Joe and Zelma and their daughter, Senita, lived up there, as did a lot of other people. Senita was about the same age as Polly. We had the northeast corner room on the front side.

Hugh drove one of Joe's rolling stores which we called peddlin' trucks. He and other drivers had a regular route each day of the week so the folks in the country knew which day and about what time the peddlin' trucks would stop at their house.

That fall we built a house in the country on land next to the church and moved there in spring of '34. I was always afraid by myself at night. Often Hugh was late coming home whenever it rained. Virtually none of the country roads on his peddlin' routes were paved and the truck was forever getting stuck in mud holes. Mr. George Breazeale lived across the road from us and Hugh asked him to move in so I wouldn't be afraid. After about a year, we went back to town, again over the store. Polly was a baby. After a time, we moved back to our house but we kept a bed and stove in that apartment. When the weather was really bad, I had a place to stay with people close by until Hugh got home. Except for the bad weather times, we lived in our house until Bud was born. I was still just too afraid to stay by myself with two little children. When Bud was three weeks old we moved back over the store.

We lived upstairs until 1958 when we built the house where I now live. I've always been pretty good with numbers. I remember how much this house cost to the penny: \$16,333.16. We cashed in all our War Bonds to build it.

Looking back on those times of back and forth between upstairs and our house in the country, I guess Papa's stories and the booger-men and trolls stayed with me a long time. I'm not sure they are gone yet.

Lois was oldest, then me, Bill, Nell, and Doc. We had a little sister between Bill and me. She died of diphtheria soon after she was born. Later, our little brother, George Hartford came along in 1931.

When he was almost five years old, George Hartford caught pneumonia. In those days the disease was nearly always fatal. George Hartford got worse and worse. I remember Papa praying fervently asking the Lord to heal George Hartford. Finally, in resignation, Papa prayed; 'Please, Lord just let me see his eyes one more time.' (He had brown eyes; the rest of us had blue eyes.) As Papa finished his plea to the Good Lord, George Hartford opened his eyes, looked toward Papa, and then he died.

After his funeral and burial, Mama moved his few toys to a high shelf in the kitchen and stored his tricycle in the smokehouse. She never let any of the grandchildren play with those toys and replied when asked, 'Those are George Hartford's toys.'

Mama and Papa grieved a long time for George Hartford. We all did.

Nell and M.T. moved to town in the late 30's. They, too, lived in an apartment over the store. Even though both of us knew how to drive, we were not comfortable enough to take both hands off the steering wheel. When we'd drive back out to the country to see Mama and Papa, we worked out a good system. The one driving kept both hands on the steering wheel and the one on the passenger side waved with her left hand closest to the driver while waving with her right hand in front of her face. We did not want our kinfolks who were sitting on their front porches to think that one of us was not waving. That would have been bad manners and Papa and Mama had taught us better.

I sometimes wonder what happened to good manners and 'yes, ma'am,' 'no, ma'am,' 'thank you, ma'am,' and 'please.'

When Polly was born, we were deciding on a name. Growing up, my nickname was "Polk," for Grandpa Polk. I knew I did not want to name a daughter, Polk. Polly, as a derivative of Pauline, seemed appropriate and we agreed on that name. Hugh suggested her middle name be "Delores." I knew that Delores was the name of a girlfriend from the time he lived in Ohio, but that didn't make me any difference. However, somehow, the birth certificate used the spelling, "Delaris." Either way, the source was the Ohio girlfriend but there was no need to be jealous about a name.

I don't think Polly particularly cared for the spelling of her name as written on her birth certificate.

Bud's name is another story. I wanted to name him after his dad, but Hugh did not like his name or the way it was spelled in the family Bible. So, he didn't agree on a 'junior.' I don't remember what name he liked, if he ever suggested one. Finally, we just quit talking about a name and let him grow up without a name.

We never sent in a name to the State Registrar of Vital Statistics in Jackson. When the birth certificate came back from the U.S. Department of Commerce, 'Unnamed Matthews' was listed as the child's name. In the meantime, 'Bud,' got attached to the child. That was Hugh's name for any little baby, boy or girl. All four of Polly's children were 'Bud.'

When Bud was in the 7th grade, he took that unnamed birth certificate to school to prove to his friends that he was not named. When I found out about that, I hid the birth certificate. Finally, after he named himself, I gave him the birth certificate and the copy of the letter we received from Vital Statistics advising that we should name our child. I also gave him the second letter I received which was the same as the first except that it had a note stapled to the top that referenced the child's being embarrassed in later life when learning of not being named.

I guess it was o.k. on the embarrassment part. 'Bud' is better than 'It.'

Hugh and Leon Smith bought the store from Joe Wilson. I think that must have been in 1939 or '40. A year or so later, the tax man came to audit the books. When he was finished, he told Leon that not enough taxes had been paid and that \$2,000 was owed. Leon called Hugh from the back part of the store where the peddlin' trucks were being loaded for the next day's routes. When Leon told Hugh about the \$2,000, Hugh turned and walked off without saying anything. Leon called to him and said; "What are we going to do?" Hugh replied; 'Give him the keys to the store. We don't have that kind of money.' I'm not sure how the debt was paid, probably on a month by month basis.

To this day, I don't think we owed that much in back taxes.

Hugh and Leon continued to have the peddlin' trucks, each with two men on each truck. I think the most trucks we had was five. I do remember that five of the men had one-room apartments over the store. I had to cook for all of them on a two-burner kerosene stove.

I sure would hate to have to do that again, but I think I could if I had to. When World War II came, men were needed to work in the shipyards. Leon sold his share of the store to Hugh and he and his family moved to Mobile for him to work in the shipyard. He could make more money in the shipyard than from his half in the store.

During the war, the shirt factory had a lot of government contracts. Nearly all the workers were women. We rented the one-room apartments over the store to some of them. I remember Mable, my cousin, and Geneva Thrash shared an apartment. Arlease Quattlebaum had an apartment by herself. I can't remember the names of all the other girls who lived there but probably Mable can.

In the war times, it was hard to get repair parts for the peddlin' trucks. Hugh hired Jim Hunter as the truck mechanic so he and Omega moved in upstairs. When Watt started working in the store, he, too, had an apartment up there. Alvis and Ruby Smith lived up there for a little while but Alvis didn't work for Hugh.

With the bad roads being a problem for Muriel, she and Bernie moved upstairs with their son, Selby. Muriel and Bernie's house in the country was at the foot of a long hill. If it thundered in the night, Muriel had to get up and drive the car to the top of the hill so she wouldn't get stuck the next morning.

Other folks who lived up there at one time or another were; Bertha and Aaron, Lola Kate and Vernon McLemore, and Watt and Pauline. I fixed up an apartment for Mama after Papa died. Like me, she was back and forth between there and her house at home.

Looking back, there were bunches of us living over the store at one time or another, but all of us made one big family.

In 1946, we started selling Purina Feeds. I don't remember too much about the feed, but I do remember the promotions the company had us do. Once we had wire cages of laying hens in the store to show how egg production increased when the hens were fed Purina. Another time, there was a baby calf in a pen we built in the store. I don't think a store could do that sort of thing anymore.

Pretty soon into '46, we got into the chicken business. Hugh hired O.J. Gordon to build chicken houses on the farms where people wanted them. They raised the chickens and we provided the feed and sold the chickens for them and then settled the accounts. At the time, a chicken house that held one thousand birds was large. Chicken business has changed since then. Nobody would build a chicken house that would hold no more than a thousand chickens.

Hugh always liked to travel and so did I. I guess mine went back to the trip to Nebraska. For Hugh, it was probably his time in Akron and Detroit. The summer before Polly was born, he and Joe Wilson decided to go to California on a motorcycle. I don't think there was a windshield on the

motorcycle or on the side car. They got as far as west Texas and the heat burned them out so they turned around and came home.

Hugh finally made it to California. Around 1950 or '51, we went to the west coast. We drove north to Kansas and Nebraska to visit my uncles and their families. Before turning west, we went into South Dakota. As we drove along, just as we passed it, I saw a sign giving directions to Mount Rushmore. I told Hugh I'd like for the kids to see Mount Rushmore so he turned around. By then, all four faces of the presidents had been completed. I was glad to see the finished monument and the kids were, too. I'm sure Hugh enjoyed seeing Mount Rushmore, but he didn't say much about it. For that matter, he never said much about any travels but that didn't mean he did not enjoy seeing new places.

From South Dakota we headed to Yellowstone. We stopped with a lot of other people alongside the road where some bears had come out of the woods. In spite of all the signs to the contrary, I decided one very small bear looked hungry, and I threw him some bread, first one slice, then another and another. I didn't have any more bread and the bear was just beside the car door. Suddenly, he reared on his hind feet and he and I were face to face. I've never rolled a window up as fast as I did that time. Before the bear dropped back down, one of the kids grabbed a camera and made a picture. My face is not in the picture, only the bear's.

I would not deny feeding that bear. But, I'd just as soon there was not a picture to remind the kids and me of my slaughtering the rules about feeding wild animals.

O.k. That's enough of that. I've already remembered more than I had in mind when this project was started.

Conversations with Our Mother

Having gotten our mother to talk about times past, we remembered some of the conversations we've had with her or that she has had with someone else. In the same way in which she called her mother, "Mama," we, too, have always called our mother, "Mama." With that, our Mama's words, as previously noted, are italicized.

When I was small, I had a boil or a carbuncle in my left ear. Back then they were called risings. There was no talk of seeing a doctor since nothing medically could be done about the problem. To help relieve the pain, my mother put warm ashes in a cloth and placed it on my ear.

"What kept the cloth from catching fire?"

Boy, don't you know the difference between warm ashes and hot coals?

That apt question has widespread implications – warm ashes v. hot coals; kind words v. hateful words; compliments v. criticism; kindness v. scorn, compassion v. disdain. For Mama, the key words have always been the positive ones.

If we misbehaved in the store, Mama gave us a sharp look and a very calm warning. If we persisted, she calmly said, 'That's a whipping.' We didn't get that promised whipping in the store, or that evening once upstairs. It was probably not long before we got another promise of a whipping. With no warning, judgment day would come. Mama would ask how many whippings she owed each of us. We gave the number and the circumstances. First one, then the other, would receive a spanking while bent across Mama's knees until all the whipping debts were paid in full.

"Mama, why did you never spank us in the store?"

I never believed in spanking children in public. I saw too many people give their kids a swat on the behind when the kids needed more than that. It seemed most of the time it was: 'If you do that again I am going to spank you.' Except all you ever heard was that same sentence over and over and

no spanking ever came. Warnings without follow up are worse than no warning at all. Kids learn soon that nothing will come of the warning so they misbehave again and again with no consequences. I never believed in hurting a kid but I did believe in kids being taught to behave and I still do.

Mama and Aunt Opal sat together at church. One Sunday Mama seemed to be a bit tired. She'd doze off, wake up, look at the preacher, and doze off again. After the service, she told the preacher how much she enjoyed his sermon. On the way home, Aunt Opal said;

"Pauline, I think you told that preacher a little fib. You slept through most of his sermon."

Well, it just looked like a good sermon.

In preparing for Mama's 90th birthday party, the plan included a bouquet of 90 roses on a table behind where Mama was to stand. As the bouquet was being put together, a comment was made that it looked like a casket spray. An immediate response was that Mama should not be told of that comparison. Shortly after, Mama came by, saw the progress on the bouquet and said; *Hum, that would cover a casket.*

Plans were being made for her 100th birthday. As the assembled folks talked of time, place, and menu, Mama interrupted the discussions with:

I tell you one thing; don't put that casket bouquet behind me this year.

Now you know why the vague statement about roses was made in this year's letter of invitation. There are 100 roses but not in one bouquet. Mama's children are obedient . . . , most of the time.

Once Mama asked about the number of times a man she knew had been married. "I don't know," was not satisfactory. Later Mama saw the man. The conversation began with social pleasantries and then she said:

Has your brother had any trouble with his wives?

"Not that I know of; he has been married twice."

Well, how many times have you been married?

"That's for you to guess."

He then took from his wallet a picture of himself and his wife and gave it to Mama. She looked at it and said:

She is a whole lot younger than you.

"Yes, ma'am, about twenty years."

Well, you're not going to be able to hold on to this one either.

Some of us have a tendency to keep things past the point of usefulness. Things are kept on the belief that the thing kept might be needed at some point down the road. Mama has mastered the art of thinking down the road. Once, at great urging, a couple years ago, she began to look through some of her treasures, thinking to throw away some of them. A large stack of cardboard boxes was pulled out in the middle of the floor.

"Mama, what's in those boxes?"

Well, I don't know what's in all of them, but there're flannel pajamas in that bottom box.

"Do you use them?"

Oh, no. I am saving them for when I get old. Old people get cold in the night and need warm pajamas.

Just over two years ago, a new nursing home opened in Union. The town folk were invited to the grand opening one Sunday afternoon before residents began to move in. One of Mama's doctors saw her and asked;

"Miss Pauline, have you come to pick out a room?"

Oh, no, I've come to apply for work.

Mama continues to enjoy preparing food. five years ago a friend and I came for supper and as usual, Mama prepared enough food for three plus ten people, not just for the three who sat down at her table. Once food was passed and plates were filled once and then a second time, Mama began to ask the guest if he wanted more food.

What may I pass you?

"Thank you. Nothing just now, I'm o.k."

Bowl by bowl continued to be picked up and offered and after each offer, the polite reply was; "No, ma'am, thank you."

After multiple attempts and kind refusals, Mama said;

Boy, you are not worth cooking for.

On Mama's 98th birthday, we invited friends and kinfolk to lunch. Birthday greetings and wishes were shared, all of which she appreciated. One younger man said: "You are the prettiest woman in this room."

You need new glasses!

When Mama was 99, we decided to have her portrait painted. When told of the plan, she had one question:

Why have you waited so long?

"Well, Mama, you are prettier than ever."

Sweet words.


Colloquialisms

As with most southern families, there are colloquialisms that seem to mark that family or that family member. Probably the one most often heard is; "Well, bless her heart." Mama doesn't use that one, Here are some of hers.

- *Have you come for dinner? If you have, you've come to a goat house looking for wool.*
- *That'll never be noticed on a galloping horse. Hurry up and finish!*
- *It's just not the thing to do.*
- *You know better than that.*
- *That's too much sugar for a dime.*
- *Well, for goodness sake.*
- *Is that the best you can do?*
- *Lands sake have mercy!*
- *Let me tell you one thing.*
- *Let that be a lesson to you.*

Of all her comments and colloquialisms, by far the one we've come to favor most is her declaration:

I'm not old: I've just lived a long time.



Through God's Grace, Blessings, and Mercy

Pauline Matthews

Has Attained 100 years

Please accept this invitation to a

*Celebration 100
Reception*

Honoring her on

Saturday, March 27, 2010

*Bluff Springs Church of God
Fellowship Hall*

14990 Road 210

Union, Mississippi

4:00 - 6:00 p.m.

And to a

*"Holy Karaoke" session in the
Church Sanctuary*

Immediately following the reception

- **Jerrod, Jessie, and Kevin Partridge** for still photography, for arranging flowers, and for videography, respectively.
- **Tommy Matthews** for pick up and delivery dashes, for bits of maintenance in the church hall, and for improving landscape shrubs.
- **Marc Peoples** for Internet searches to find a happenings, an inventions, a developments, an obscure facts, or bits of family history for each of Mama's 100 birthday candles.
- **Marc Peoples, Gary Pinson, and Gene Vinson** for on-site constructions.
- **David, Gene, and Margaret Vinson** for constructing the Birthday Card Tree, painting clothespins, stringing yards of ribbon, and constructing pedestals.

We've quite likely missed someone, given the number of folks who volunteered to help with Mama's reception. Please know that our failure to reach 100% in the appreciation list is not to be construed as intentional. Therefore, please accept our apology should there be oversight.

There are those folks who helped at the last minute and were not known to us at the time of this printing. We are just as grateful for their help as we are for all the folks we've thanked in the above list. And to be somewhat Biblical, their pay is the same for their labor as for the laborers who've worked with us from the beginning. The pay? Neither coin of the realm nor legal currency, it is worth far more to us and we hope to you. That pay is our great big **THANK YOU** and heartfelt appreciation!



We choose now to thank all of you who've come to *Celebration 100*. We are both honored and humbled by your presence. We are honored that Mama's love of friends and family brings you to this occasion. We are humbled to know that her life and witness means enough to you to make the effort to be here. You are most kind to join her and us in this celebration of God's grace, blessings, and mercy through which our Mama, Pauline Germany Matthews has attained 100 years.

Gratefully,

Polly Gordon
Milton (Bud) Matthews

The Stories of the Cakes

In planning for *Celebration 100*, the memory of "The Cake of the Decade" surfaced from Mama's 90th birthday celebration. The idea was reprieved and another cake added for the 10th decade. Here are the current stories.

1910-19: Mama Josie's One-Egg Cake

Mama's Mama made a one-egg cake that was quite tasty, especially when warm out of the oven. It's the kind of cake that's good with any icing or fresh fruit. Once when asked how to make a Mama Josie one-egg cake, Mama said:

You start by beating two eggs.

But, it's a one-egg cake.

Well, Mama always used two if she had'em.

For this birthday, Mama's granddaughter is making the cake. She is the 6th generation that we know of who baked the one-egg cake.

1920-29: A Pound Cake

A pound cake was the first cake I learned to make after the one-egg cake. Miss Hannah taught me. I had the recipe memorized then forgot it. Years ago Mildred called to ask for the recipe but I couldn't remember it. A little later, Joyce called. I'd given her the recipe and she gave it back. I'm glad we're having the pound cake again. Both Mildred and Joyce are gone and I miss both of them.

1930-39: A Wedding Cake

Why are you having a wedding cake at my birthday?

Because you and Daddy were married in the 30s and both your children were born in the 30s.

Well, o.k.

1940-49: The Clara Cake

Why do you call it "The Clara Cake?"

Because Clara Driskell gave me the recipe.

The cake was a favorite of Mama's brother, Doc. He was stationed in England during World War II. Mama sent him a Clara cake each Christmas, packed in unsalted popcorn so sometimes it is now called the Doc Cake.

Polly telephoned Clara's daughter. The correct name of the cake is the Amalgamation Cake. Like other stories, names eventually get attached. Mama baked this Cake of the Decade from the original copy she wrote when Clara gave her the recipe 70 years ago.

1950-59: A Coconut Cake

Joyce made the coconut cake last time. I'd like to have that cake again. Maybe Marianne will make it if her daughter-in-law, Kim, will ask her.

Marianne said; "Yes, for Aunt Pauline."

1960-69: A Caramel Cake

Mama, last time we asked you to make a caramel cake for the decade of the 90s. You told us you'd been making that cake a lot longer than ten years.

I think I started making that cake in the late 60s. Jeannette Sligh gave me the icing recipe. She may have gotten it from her sister-in-law. Wherever she got it, I'm glad she shared. I've not found a better recipe for caramel icing.

1970-79: A Carrot Cake

I used to bake carrot cakes in the 70s. Might we have another one?

This time Kim asked her husband to make the cake . . . for Aunt Pauline. He did.

1980-89: A Hummingbird Cake

Polly, will you ask someone to make the hummingbird cake for the 80s? That's another good cake I made about that time. I hope we can have one.

Polly's friend, Donna McInnis, responded positively to Polly's request.

1990-99: A Red Velvet Cake

We didn't have a red velvet cake last time. I guess we missed that one. I think I made that cake a lot in the 90s. It calls for a bunch of red cake coloring.

Again, Kim came to the rescue and asked Marsha Hardin to make the cake.

Kim is going to have a lot of favors to repay.

2000-2010: A German Chocolate Cake

Let's have a chocolate cake for the decade of the 2000s. The red velvet has cocoa in it but it doesn't look like a chocolate cake. Maybe Betty Germany will bake it.

2010: A Birthday Cake

Are y'all going to get a birthday cake like you did before? Remember, I told you we still needed a birthday cake last time.

Yes, ma'am, we'll get you a birthday cake; a lemon cake with lemon icing?

Sounds good but don't put 100 candles on it. I don't think I can blow out that many candles in one breath.

Appreciation

It is with grateful hearts that we recognize the gifts of time and effort that many of you have given to make Mama's Celebration 100 a special event for her. To this host of friends and kinfolk, we express our deep appreciative. Having thanked you collectively, there are those among you that we must cite for extraordinary resourcefulness. They are:

- **Kim Hancock** for helping coordinate the menu planning and serving of food, and the set-up of the church hall.
- **Dale Boler, Carey Grace Chaney, Jeni Collins, Annette Fulton, Crystal Germany, Jolynn Germany, Barbara Matthews, Lavonne Matthews, Kate Thomas, and Ester Way** for serving food, coffee, and punch.
- **Sue Addy, Becky Branning, Jody Burroughs, Mable Crocker, Judy Fleming, Margaret Germany, Peggy Germany, Kim Hancock, Rosemary Langley, Kim Lee, Teresa Parker, Jeanette Pevey, Coreen VanDevender, Annette Welch, and Pat Wright** for preparing salads and dips.
- **Eric and Jeni Collins** for harvesting bamboo and cutting it to exact specifications for the entrance centerpiece
- **Dawn Driskell** for sorting and scanning 100 years of photographs for the pictorial record of Mama's life.
- **Betty Germany, Marianne Hancock, Scott Hancock, Marsha Hardin, Donna McInnis, and Lanna Parker** for each baking one of the *Cakes of the Decade*.
- **Danny Germany** for the Power Point presentation of Mama's life.
- **David Germany** for coordinating "Holy Karaoke" and the Sunday Birthday Lunch for Mama.
- **Pat Germany** for greeting guests.
- **Larry Little** for locating serving pieces, printing covers and attaching them to the Celebration 100 booklets, and wrapping "present" centerpieces.
- **Bill and Emily Jordan** for picking up and delivering birthday cakes.